

PARENT FORUM

MINUTES



Location: WPA



Date: 12/03/2024



Time: 18:00

IN ATTENDANCE

Stuart Mallott (WPA)
Alyshia O'Connor (Chair)
Joanne Hance
Nick Jacklin

Emma Makeham
Mario Lazarou
Dawn Lamb
Rachel Young

AnnMarie Hilton
Helen Parr
Michelle Marchant

APOLOGIES

Becky Smoothy
Carly Smith
Jenny Brassington (TDET)
Sarah Cornwell

Kathryn Lazarou
Lucy Ellerker-Jones

ACTION POINTS

- Literacy & Maths groups (along with a synopsis) to be shared with parents
- TDET to be invited to the next Parent Forum meeting - 30 April
- Alyshia to collate and confirm guidelines & expectations for Parent Forum
- Alyshia to collate questions directed at TDET to share
- Website to be updated as per suggestions noted
- Ensure the school's calendar is up to date and correct
- Bags discussion to carry over from previous meeting
- Communicate re gates & collecting children from after school clubs

AGENDA**SUMMARY****Welcome and introductions**

Welcome to all parents

Last meetings minutes & action points

- New website launched successfully - feedback discussed later in meeting
- New outdoor play areas installed over the February half term break in both KS1 & EYFS
- Behaviour policy & presentation was shared with all parents via ParentMail
- Agreed all staff are now positively welcoming the children into school & class - it was suggested that maybe they might be supplied with umbrellas to keep them dry at the door
- New wooden toys have been ordered & supplied to EYFS
- Literacy & Maths groups (along with a synopsis) to be sent out to all parents - still outstanding from previous meetings
- Spellings are now being shared with all parents on both ClassDojo & ParentMail early in the week
- The invitation to TDET to attend a Parent Forum meeting has been extended again - Jenny Brassington sent her apologies but hopes to attend on 30 April
- The minutes from all Parent Forum meetings are now being shared with TDET
- Minutes from Parent Forum meetings have & will be shared with TDET

Expectations for Parent Forum Meetings

It was agreed that all Parent Forum meetings should be a positive space to share views and that all attendees should respect those of others

Alyshia will collate & share the Parent Forum expectations including a deadline for discussion points and highlight that individual concerns should be discussed with the school directly as per the Communications Policy. It was agreed by all that Parent Forum is about improving the school as a whole and not the right platform to raise personal or individual grievance

Trust Question & Answer Session with Jenny Brassington

Jenny Brassington sent her apologies and hopes to attend the next meeting on 30 April. In her absence, Stuart Mallott, offered to answer any questions from those in the room:

When asked what the Trust offers the school and community Stuart explained that it feels very much like a community group where headteachers, educational leads, etc can come together to discuss options and share ideas. For example, the Maths leads all recently met at WPA to walk through their learning assessments and curriculum (currently White Rose Maths but considering NTEM as an alternative or blend). Stuart also explained that the school & its staff receive support from the Trust's SEND & Behavioural leads too

Regarding funding, Stuart explained that the Trust have invested in the school's Nest, match-funded the new play equipment around school and the new path leading into the KS1 playground too

Alyshia is to invite any other TDET directed questions to be sent to Parent Forum's email - she will collate and share with Jenny ahead of April's meeting

AGENDA**SUMMARY****Website Feedback Discussion**

Stuart Mallott shared the website and feedback was generally positive:

All agreed it was a vast improvement on the previous website, that it looked good as well as being easy to navigate, the curriculum was clear and the school's map has been added. ParentMail letters have been added too

Points for improvement included:

- A teacher introduction would be appreciated alongside a staff photo
- Double-check teacher name spellings as these varied across the pages
- Vacancies should link to the Trust's vacancy page
- School calendar needs syncing as not in line or up to date with the diary dates
- Links to recommended and suggested resources (for example, Times Tables Rockstars, Spellshed) would be appreciated
- Links to external pages like YDP & ParentMail would be appreciated too

Any other suggestions or notes can be sent to Alyshia via the Parent Forum email pls

Parents' Evening Feedback

Stuart Mallott invited feedback on the recent parents' evenings having introduced a new student tracking system named INSIGHT, allowing teachers to follow the child's progress no matter the class nor teacher and to release more time to allow for planning & teaching over paperwork & report writing

Positive feedback included: the ability to look through the child's school books beforehand (both at the recent Celebration of Learning and outside the classroom before appointments). Targets were shared clearly and teachers focused on both personal & academic achievements of the children

Points for improvement or consideration included:

- Displaying the class' best work outside the classroom whilst waiting
- Share an explanation of any grades & targets on the school's website or outside the classroom so that the parents have a point of reference (although Stuart did explain that most grades are for internal use only)

Celebration of Learning was also discussed at the same time - all agreed it was a good time to share the curriculum with parents but some suggested whether this might be more successful at a time when the children are not present. Having all of the key stage's teachers together was appreciated and it was suggested that a video of the presentation could be shared on ClassDojo alongside the PowerPoint file

AGENDA	SUMMARY
<p>Positive Behaviour & Relationship Policy</p>	<p>Stuart Mallott explained that the main focus of the new Behaviour & Relationship Policy is to celebrate the positives and identify the triggers of negative behaviour. Expectations will be instilled in the children from the start of school and the policy is currently being introduced in Monday morning assemblies. Teachers meet weekly to discuss any orange slips and class teachers are to take responsibility of their class' behaviour wherever it may occur in school</p> <p>Stuart explained that restorative conversations are to take place with the victims but also bystanders who are also impacted by negative behaviour. Teachers are to offer support to everyone in class impacted. Discussions will always take place with the parents of both the victim and perpetrator - conversations with the parents of bystanders will be navigated and judged on an individual basis</p> <p>Time will also be taken to teach acceptance of all differences and to understand that everyone has different needs at different times. It might appear that a child is being rewarded with an iPad (for example) when that child needs help to calm down following an incident before being able to discuss it. Also, suspension (whilst sometimes perceived as a break for the child) is also an opportunity for the school to reflect and reset, ready to welcome the child back into school and to try again</p> <p>A survey was conducted of children in KS2 re safety in school - a small percentage felt poor behaviour wasn't dealt with properly and a smaller percentage didn't feel safe in school. A similar survey will be conducted of children in KS1</p> <p>Stuart explained that they are seeing a huge improvement in behaviour when playing outside following the introduction of the Opal Program and that ALL school staff will be trained (discussed further below)</p> <p>The main aim of the revised Behaviour Policy and approach is to see more children in class</p>
<p>Opal Program Update</p>	<p>Stuart Mallott shared videos of other schools implementing the Opal Program in their outdoor play and shared examples of how the children at WPA are already benefiting from it. Stuart explained how unstructured play equates to 20% of a child's school day so it's imperative that it positively impacts the child's behaviour both outside and then back in the classroom. Opal have advised that Warboys has the grounds & space for success and that they are looking to create mini worlds & areas of play around the fields and playgrounds, eventually leading to access to all grounds. Children will be encouraged to learn through play, take risks, use their imagination & tidy away after themselves</p> <p>All adults supervising break times will be trained in the Opal Program and their titles changed to 'play leaders' to reflect their role - rather than 'policing' the behaviour outside they will be expected to engage with the children and encourage positive play with one another. All adults out in the field & playground will wear hi-vis vests to ensure they are more visible to the children and other adults alike</p> <p>Stuart explained that it will take approx. 18 months to become Opal accredited and that further investment is required to achieve this - a sandpit, more play equipment & outdoor storage</p>
<p>Bags Discussion</p>	<p>Deferred to next meeting - 30 April - as time did not allow this time</p>
<p>Reward System</p>	<p>Currently students are recognised for good behaviour & achievements via Achievement Assemblies, Stars of the Week & ClassDojo points. Stuart explained that they want to start rewarding the 'above & beyond' and so are looking to review the rewards currently offered</p>

AOB

Transition to secondary school - Parents questioned how the school might help prepare the Year 6 students for starting secondary school in September. All agreed that primary to secondary is a big jump for all children. Stuart explained that they're utilising the My Happy Mind app and investing in a book for this year's Year 6 students to aid their transition. Stuart advised that a Science teacher had recently visited from Abbey College to teach Year 6 for Science Week and agreed that it would be good to develop a closer relationship to aid the transition in September

Books - Mr Duncan has started using the funds raised by the PTFA to purchase new books, creating a mini library for each classroom in the school. It was questioned why purchasing new books for a school was such a task and why the Trust doesn't invest in a basic provision, utilising their pooling of resources to achieve lower prices. Stuart explained that the Trust is better at sourcing larger items like furniture & play equipment. Stuart explained that he is responsible for the school's budget which needs to cover purchases such as books but also staff wages (taking approx. 80% of the annual budget) and other resources hence the fundraising by the PTFA is so greatly appreciated. Whilst discussing books, Stuart explained that he hoped to see the library staffed and open for the children to access at any time of day

Communication - Concerns were raised over the miscommunication re World Book Week with changing dates & times for reading sessions and also which gate to use to access the childrens' classrooms. It was agreed that any changes to previously communicated dates & times should be highlighted and not assumed corrected. It was also agreed that any communication referencing gates etc should be accompanied by the map drawn and that staff should ensure that the school is ready to welcome parents when invited in. Gates should be opened in a timely manner as per the event communication

School access - Parents questioned why school gates were open & unlocked when children were at after school clubs and asked for some consistency & guidance re access when collecting them at 4.15

Thank you everyone for coming and your contributions. :)

Next Meeting : Tuesday 30 April 6pm