



Parents' Forum 3 – Friday 11th July 2008

Attendees:

Mrs Whittington
Mrs Williams

Yr R	Sycamore	Iwona Batterberry
	Holly	Viv McMillan
Yr 1	Pine	Sam Amend
	Oak	Michelle Livett
Yr 2	Chestnut	Vanessa Marston
	Elm	Nicky Moss
Yr 3	Cedar	Gillian Bowers
	Beech	Catherine Barlow
Yr 4	Willow	
	Cherry	Nicky Moss
Yr 5	Sequoia	Mary Nash
	Juniper	Sabine Bolier
Yr 6	Yew	
	Hawthorn	

Apologies:

Willow	Joy Small
Yew	Ulla Salmon

1. Emergency Telephone Tree Feedback

The Telephone Trees were tested by the school office on Monday 7th July.

Most classes now have an emergency contact tree, although some are not complete. During the tests a significant number of parents could not be reached. Although parents usually had contact details with them for those immediately after them on the tree, if they were unavailable, they did not necessarily have contact details of those further along the tree. There was also a lack of clarity regarding who should contact the school if parents could not be reached, as there could potentially be many people ringing the school.

It was suggested that it may be more efficient for each class representative to send a group text to the class in the event of an emergency. This would include a request for each person to reply to confirm that the message has been received. The class representative would then be able to contact the school with a complete list of parents who had not been reached.

2. Playground Mentors

Parents have asked whether help is available for younger children to sort out playground disputes.

It was suggested that Year 6 children might act as mentors for younger children. From September, Year 6 children will also sit with the younger children at lunchtime.

Mrs Whittington reinforced that children should report any concerns to staff in the playground or their class teacher, who will then report incidents to her. Children can also go directly to the head or deputy.

3. Targeted teaching of groups within a class

Parents have questioned why groups have been “pulled out” of class in Year 5 for Literacy teaching.

Mrs Williams explained that tracking has highlighted children who, based on their KS1 results, are capable of being stretched to ensure they achieve their full potential. This is an area which was also highlighted on the most recent Ofsted report. The groups are not selected on the basis of the Able, Gifted and Talented register. The purpose of the group was explained to the children in the group, but this will be reiterated. A letter will also be sent home to the parents of the children who will be in subsequent groups.

4. Homework diaries

Parents have requested improved communication about homework.

In KS2, homework diaries will be issued from September. Children will copy down the homework set, and the diary will then be signed by the teacher. Parents will also sign the homework diary. Details of homework will presently be available online on the Moodle site.

If homework is avoided or not handed in, children will be required to complete it at break times (unless there is a genuine reason).

5. Contact details on school trips

Parents have asked whether a telephone number on a sticker or wrist band could be used for children on school trips.

A volunteer on the forum will investigate sourcing reusable wristbands, which could be used on some trips.

6. Payment for FOB events, photographs, etc.

Where parents have more than one child at the school, there can be confusion if only one cheque is used to pay for the family.

It was suggested that there could be a yearly budget for trips and known expenses, to cut down on the number of cheques which need to be written by parents. For events such as school discos, it is helpful if money is sent in a carefully labelled envelope.

7. Visiting new classrooms

Parents reported that their children enjoyed spending an afternoon with their next year's teacher.

8. SENCO

Parents asked who the new Special Educational Needs Coordinator will be.

Mrs Williams will be SENCO. She will not have a class allocated to her, but will also continue to teach Literacy to groups of children across the school.

9. Year 3 toilets

A complaint has been made about the cleanliness and smell of the Yr 3 toilets. A window does not open and one of the doors does not lock. In addition, the soap in the toilets may be causing a skin reaction in one of the children.

As of this week, the school toilets are being cleaned by different cleaners. Mrs Whittington will ask Paul Collinswood to look at the window and lock, and will find out which soap is currently being used.

10. Swimming

Year 3 parents have reported that their children have not enjoyed swimming at Wycombe swimming pool, due to problems with the instructors. Fun activities were also promised but did not happen.

Mrs Whittington was aware of these concerns, and is looking into the possibility of swimming at Court Gardens. The concerns will be raised with Wycombe leisure centre.

Currently children go swimming every other week in the summer term of Year 3, and the Autumn term of Year 4. It was suggested that it may be better for children to swim each week in the Spring term, and this will be looked into. There is a requirement for children to go swimming with school.

11. Parents evenings

Parents have asked whether Parents Evenings could occur over 2 weeks, with one evening each week, to enable any parents who work away to have a greater chance of attending.

Logistically this would be very difficult, so Parents Evenings will continue to be held over one week.

12. Cycling to school

Parents have asked whether Year 5/6 children could be allowed to leave their bikes behind the library.

Some schools have cycling contracts for children to sign, agreeing to a code of conduct. Their bikes are then tagged, and only these bikes are allowed on the premises. A volunteer on the forum will look into this. Until then, bikes are not permitted as there is no proper storage.

13. Mixing of Year 2 classes

Parents have asked whether one class has more boys than the other.

The year actually has more girls than boys, and the classes have been mixed to contain roughly equal numbers of boys in each.

14. Notifying parents re: unexplained absences

Does the office phone parents if their children are not in school without explanation?

The office contacts parents at about 9.30 am if their child has not come to school.

Date for Next Forum will be Friday 26th September 14.00 – 15.15 pm.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

