

PARENTS FORUM
FRIDAY FEBRUARY 13TH 2009

Attendees:

Mrs Whittington
Mrs Williams
Carolyn McCall (Sycamore)
Rachel Desmond (Holly)
Michelle Livett (Elm)
Emily Wright (Cedar)
Catherine Barlow (Willow)
Gillian Bowers (Cherry)
Joy Small (Sequoia)
Nicky Moss (Juniper)
Tracey Lowden (Ash)

Apologies:

Iwona Batterberry (Pine)
Anya MacFarlane (Oak)
Sam Amend (Chestnut)
Vanessa Marsden (Beech)
Sabine Bolier (Hawthorn)

1. Year 4 coming out of school late at the end of the day.

The teachers are aware and let the children out on time, but report that some children are reluctant to go out into the locker area until it is quieter.

2. PG films.

A PG film was shown to Year 1 children before Christmas. Films are not often shown, but the policy is for parental permission to be sought if films are PG certificate, which in this case did not happen in error.

3. KS1 Christmas Performance.

Whilst it was agreed that this was an excellent show, it was felt that the number of performances was excessive. In future, the choir will perform at the OAP Christmas party, rather than performing the KS1 production again.

4. Pre- and after-school childcare provision.

By 2010, primary schools need to either provide before and after school clubs, or to signpost parents to alternative local settings if more than 10% of parents request provision. Currently parents are signposted to Marlow After-school Club, but there is no breakfast club at present. The questionnaire which was sent out to parents was from a parent who is keen to set up local provision, which is still being pursued.

5. Orienteering.

Until now, this club has had a staff member involved, which has allowed events to be covered by the school's insurance policy. If no staff member is directly involved, Orienteering is still able to continue, providing events are covered by the provider's (eg Mr Vyner's) insurance. The British Orienteering Federation is happy to provide this. Mrs Whittington is very happy for orienteering to continue on this basis therefore we are awaiting Mr Vyner's agreement.

6. Trips and additional costs.

Because Year 3 have had visitors to the school such as the Roman day, there are no plans for a trip, other than to Mop End.

There have been complaints about the recent number of requests for payments (eg Skipping Workshop, Creative Week), both in terms of cost, and in terms of needing to write several cheques. The Auditors require any requests for additional money to be very specific, which means that it is not possible for parents to pay a lump sum at the start of the year. However, it has been agreed that requests need to be better organised, so that parents are informed about known trips etc in advance, allowing for less cheques where possible. The meeting was informed that on average only about one third of parents paid for the additional workshops for creative week (a higher proportion pay for trips).

7. Bucks Grid for Learning.

The Bucks Grid for Learning is the internet provider for the school, and is used daily by the children. There may be some confusion between the terms “Moodle” and “Bucks Grid for Learning” – the link on the school website will be changed to a link to the Moodle rather than Bucks Grid for Learning. However, the Moodle site is provided by Bucks GFL.

8. After school clubs.

Because information about the clubs comes out at different times in the term, children sometimes have to choose between clubs, without knowing what else is available. The school will ask the club providers for information earlier, so that parents will know which clubs will run on which days.

Wycombe Wanderers could not offer a club last term due to the hall being in use for several weeks, but are now running a club again.

It was suggested that any children who miss out on a place in an after school club should be put at the top of a waiting list for the next term. This would be useful for oversubscribed clubs such as Messy Chefs.

9. Cooking.

Food Technology is part of the curriculum, and children in different years do get the opportunity to do cooking.

10. Safety.

Plans are in place for the eroding soil bank alongside the Reception classrooms to be fenced off, and paving slabs will be laid around the Hexagon and beside the ramp outside Year 2.

11. Homework.

Year 6: Pupils are set homework on most nights, to be handed in the following day. It has been suggested that it would help the children prepare for the

transition to Senior School if they were set some homework as a project each term. Project work is currently done in class, but it was suggested that by setting some as homework, it would enable children to plan how to complete their work, and manage their time accordingly. Mrs Whittington will discuss this with the Year 6 teachers.

Year 4: It was asked whether homework is being monitored, as there did not seem to be any repercussions for homework being handed in late or not at all. The school's policy is that if homework is handed in more than a day late without good reason, then the child will miss a break. Mrs Whittington will check with Year 4 teachers that this is happening.

12. NFER tests.

Children in Years 3 and 4 are no longer being set the NFER Verbal Reasoning tests. It has been found that there is no correlation between NFER results and 11+ performance, and changes to the 11+ process mean that previous NFER scores are no longer taken into account in the appeals procedure. The Verbal Reasoning questions are also quite different to the 11+ questions. Other more accurate assessments of reading age and spelling age are being introduced, and the optional SATs test will continue, as they can provide useful information to the general midpoint assessments in Key Stage 2. KS1 assessments are much more based on teacher assessment, and this is being rolled out to KS2. Information about the changes will be given at an assessment meeting for all parents later in the year.

13. Whiteboards.

It was asked whether children could sit on chairs when doing classwork on the whiteboards, but it would be very difficult to arrange seating so that all children have a good view of the board.

14. Uniform.

There have been concerns raised about the quality of the sweatshirts, particularly with regard to washing them. Mrs Whittington asked for any complaints to be passed to her, so that problems can be raised with the suppliers.

It was asked whether polo necks could be worn in cold weather, but it was felt that since the classrooms can be quite hot, this would be unsuitable, and it was also felt that polo necks may not look as smart.

Since the girls have an alternative summer uniform, it was asked whether KS2 boys might be able to wear a polo shirt embroidered with the school badge as an alternative to a shirt and tie in hot weather. Mrs Whittington will consider this, and report back.

15. Snow.

Mrs Whittington will be having a working party with the governors to sort out procedures for what to do if there is a repeat of the snowy conditions which forced the school to close.

16. *The following were raised, but will be discussed at the next meeting:*

- The number of Year 4/2 PE lessons being missed due to other activities.
- Times Tables – particularly the number of questions at Level 10.

Next meeting:

Friday 27th March at 2pm