



A Parent Forum is a partnership between parents and the school. It is a valuable way to share ideas, views, concerns and make suggestions for improvement.

The aims of the Parent Forum:

- to work together to improve the education provided for our children
- to share information, knowledge, and skills
- to meet in a mutually supportive environment
- to further improve communications between parents/carers/ staff/governor



PRESENT:

OWLS		
PUFFINS	Mrs Cooke (Harvey)	
PENGUINS		
FLAMINGOS		
PEACOCKS	Mrs Belsey (Molly)	Mrs Druce (Eve)
WOODPECKERS		
HUMMINGBIRDS		
PARROTS	Mrs Cooke (Toby)	Mrs Russell (Isabella)
TOUCANS	Mrs Parker (Aelan)	
KINGFISHERS	Mrs Parker (Seth)	
HERONS		

Meeting 1 – 6th October 2021

Minutes

Welcome, general discussion about purpose of meetings / forum and what we all hope we can get from it

Mrs Smith welcomed and thanked those in attendance for coming to the meeting and discussed the purpose and reasons why the meetings were set up. The group discussed ways to get more parents/carers involved in the group. Timing of the meeting was one area to consider. Some parents felt they didn't know enough whilst others felt the information was clear. The use and influence both positively and negatively of What's App groups were also discussed. All parents present were happy to take forward any thoughts on behalf of others.

Update on school from Mrs Smith

Mrs Smith shared the changes in the school including the introduction of mixed classes, the staff leaving and new staff joining and the size of the school still growing. Discussion was held around numbers in the school and local perceptions.

Points for discussion brought by Parents

- 1) **School plans for Black History Month?** *School have put together a folder of suggested lessons that can be delivered from EYFS to Year 6 over this month and we have planned in two class worship sessions specifically to focus on this. Other things are being woven into the curriculum and feature on the school development plan as this is an area to further explore as a whole school. Suggestion to make sure this is shared in the newsletter what is taking place.
Mrs Smith actioned this 8/10/21 and gave a suggested task to do at home.*
- 2) **Year 1/2 having engagement and interactive hands-on learning to enhance and allow for some of the last learning through play to be incorporated?** *Mrs Smith will take this back to the Year 1/2 team although it is certainly, something they are already considering e.g., an English lesson included playing games outside before writing a recount. There is discussion about ways to include a more continuous provision within the team too. Fire Fighters visited on Friday and going over to the nature area had also been carried out. This will be revisited at the next parent forum.*
- 3) **Manners from the children** – *this was raised as a concern as missing from children – is this because of lockdown? One parent commented that further up the school, manners are present, but others lower down the school felt they were missing and that etiquette had gone. This is something as a school with the values*

we are continually revisiting. We discussed the root of this and what more can be done in school to promote this. This will be further discussed as staff.

- 4) **Communication particularly for working parents** - *the newsletter was all felt to be very useful weekly document but maybe there could be more detail somehow in the general running of the school. Also, acronyms used need to be explained. Mrs Smith explained that the use of email to teachers was certainly meant to have been a way to increase the level of communication between teacher and parents and all agreed this was very helpful. Mrs Smith to consider additional ways to add further details. Also commenting on what letters were sent by paper, emailed from different email addresses and how this works. Mrs Smith trying to work on a streamlined approach of only handing thing out on a Friday and really reducing the number paper copies of things. If a slip is required to be completed considering ways to do this – something electronic. Another parent was going to investigate how a school achieve this.*
 - 5) **Early Years T- Shirts** – *children getting very dirty t shirt through several different events throughout the day – outside play, painting, lunch, pens etc. Mrs Smith explained this is all part of the EYFS curriculum and good practice. Already suggested and reminded of thinking about whether this age children can have Navy t shirts? **PE Kits** observation about children not coming to school in them? Mrs Smith explained it is good for them to do this in school, is part of an Early learning Goal and they will at some point need to do it so practicing early leads to good habits an independence. **Reading Books** Seems to be mixed messages have been circulating about why children aren't getting reading books. Discussed about the new approach to phonics and redoing. Letter going out Friday to further explain. **Communication Board** – this is brilliant for those who collect but working parents who do not is there another way this can be shared e.g., Tapestry? **Water bottles** – can they come home more frequently so that parents can check how much drunk – Mrs Smith will revisit this with staff. Mrs Smith also asked from support in ensuring children only drink water as several children have squash in school. Clear bottles? **Encouragement of Reading for enjoyment ideas** – Mrs Smith will look at ways throughout the year this can be included. **Drop off at lunchtime** – clarification on processes of what to do with this and who in school should be allowing children into school at this time.*
- **Key highlights / areas to develop from Parent Questionnaire** – this was largely discussed through other conversations and items shared.
 - **Parent Events** – curriculum evenings – timings – this as discussed but very mixed – 3.30pm often not good but equally neither is 6pm for dinner and evening routines. Staff wellbeing also and are to consider if any later.
 - **Resilience in children** – this is an area Mrs Smith brough and parents with think about for next time. Whilst our Growth Mindset is having some impact, there is still an area which needs to be addressed. This is about children having more of a go at something, not giving up on things and that as a whole school community to further explore this together. Some of this is because of lockdown and Covid and children having parents to work with them 1:1 or 1: a smaller group. Possible speaker on this to parents and carers.
 - **Healthy Schools Agenda** – this is also an area we did not discuss in great a depth but links to children making healthy lifestyle choices with diet and exercise. Did discuss water drinking but do have a policy to share next time and ways to consider lunch boxes being healthier.

Meeting over ran and finished at 3:15.

Next meeting in November TBC