

## Parent Forum

Headteacher's Welcome: This meeting is to discuss what goes well in school and what we can improve. We want people to recommend our school. This meeting is about contributing to school life. We have a great community around us. There are a lot of positive things we can do. How can we build our community together? Parents have a lot to contribute. The forum isn't for complaints involving children, families or staff.

Parent: HSA used to do 'ChatterBox,' as it encouraged people to come into school. It was in the hall where parents used to come and have a little chat for 50-60 minutes and put toys out and had toast and coffee etc. It encouraged children into school.

Headteacher: We will look at if it is possible to bring the Chatterbox back into school

*Action taken: We have started our coffee morning up from 13-01-2023 so parents can come in for a chat.*

Headteacher: How is the behaviour policy going from a parent's perspective? The focus of this behaviour policy is based on developing relationships. We are driven by the fact that there are some children who are dysregulated.

Parent: Can we have clarification on the reflective sheets? I have been told that it will stay on their Scholar Pack and will be transferred to high school. We don't want it going to their high school.

Headteacher: We don't remove anything from Scholar Pack. However it is only used within our school setting and we wouldn't transfer this information to their high school. As a school, we use this internally to spot patterns. I receive all notifications from Scholar Pack so I can identify if any help is needed. We are trying to encourage positive notes that go out.

Parent: There have been occasions of a lack of communication for small things, as when the teachers approach us, we don't always get told. Sometimes a teacher will say 'this has happened a few times this week,' but we haven't been told prior to this.

Headteacher: We don't want everything to be put onto parents to deal with, we will try to support by addressing the issues that arise in school. Then the next step would be to involve parents.

*Action taken: We have met with staff and asked that letters go out at the beginning of term or go out with plenty of notice.*

Parents: We want to be able to talk face to face with staff.

Headteacher: You can email the school office or speak to the class teacher to organise a face to face meeting . You can also contact Mrs Haig, we also want to move away from messages on Dojo as I can't see it if I need to have any input on any issues.

Parent: I received a text message the other day that said 'ice pack applied to injury and that was it.'

Headteacher: If an accident does happen you will receive a text message about the First Aid if it's non urgent. If it was a more serious accident we would call home. The texting facility allows limited words so we cannot always fit a lot of information in but we will always put in what we can. The Text is just to inform parents of the accident as we used to send home a slip but sometimes they got lost in transition.

Parent: Can you explain 'Rest Easy' to us?

Headteacher: Rest Easy is a whole school initiative that involves the children having some lessons that teach them about emotions. There is a quiet area in the playground where children can go to colour or read, and they don't have to stay there for all of playtime, but for as long as they want to. Some children who have ASD might wonder, so we have set up a rest easy room for them to go to with games. We will also be training up the year 6 pupils to help with intervention. Rest Easy aims to help teach the children how to manage their emotions whilst in a quiet space.

Parent: In terms of reading, sometimes my child would rather read their own books as they are told to read it twice.

Headteacher: We need more training and higher quality books. We are looking into how we can put conditions in place to get pupils to want to read, as we want pupils to be really good readers, writers, and good in maths before they leave primary school as this will give them a better start in high school. Our reading levels have gone up.

*Action taken: We have spent a significant amount on new books so pupils have a wider selection to choose from*

Parent: You have previously said no to volunteers in schools.

Headteacher: No, we can have volunteers as we need as many as we can get to help support but we will help to train you up.

Businessmanager: Unfortunately we don't take volunteers in the front office due to a lot of confidential information

Parent: Do we need references to volunteer?

Business Manager: Yes, as we have to follow the correct safer recruitment (Safeguarding regulations and procedures). We need an enhanced DBS and 2 references in order to come in and volunteer.

*Action taken: I have emailed the parents who have requested to become a volunteer on 11-01-2023*

Headteacher: Is there anything that we are doing well?

Parent: The school trips, even going to the park etc.

Parent: Year 3 hasn't been anywhere yet.

Headteacher: I would like more trips to take place and this is something that we will be working on in the future to ensure all pupils have the opportunity.

Parent: The link with the church is good for socialising and has created more of a community parish. I think the ChatterBox is great.

Headteacher: Chatterbox sounds great so I will look into it.

*Action taken: Coffee morning has started up again from 13-01-2023 so parents can chat and socialise.*

Parent: Would you consider putting on a course for parents to help with Maths and/or English?

Headteacher: Yes we would, we will put it on the list to do.

Parent: School meals - my child isn't going to the front early for dietary requirements and the app isn't updated.

Headteacher: We have to stick to regulations but we will look into the meals. We are a school majority of white British and we would like to be more diverse with our food choices.

*Action taken: We have checked pupils dietary requirements and made sure these have all been communicated to the catering supplier so the pupil can only choose a meal that is suitable for them on the app.*

Parent: How do we apply for free school meals?

Headteacher: you can go to our website and follow the link provided , Or you can pop into the office and we can apply on your behalf.

Parent: Are we not doing 'Stay and Pray' anymore?

Headteacher: Yes we have been doing them.

Parent: We receive notices at short notice so I can't take the time off.

*Action taken: We have asked staff to give as much notice as possible.*

Parent: I don't feel welcomed into school anymore, I feel that there is a barrier with the gate and trying to get into school.

Headteacher: We have done this for Safeguarding reasons and I do see that it makes a difference by not entering the school. We need people to sign in to be able to come into the school and follow the appropriate procedures. We can't have parents walking around school within school hours. If parents need to discuss something with the school they can go to the hatch and speak to the admin staff who will be able to assist.

Parent: It's not the hatch that's not welcoming, it's the 'Stay and Pray' assemblies.

Parent: We used to be able to just come into school if we wanted to but we can't do that anymore. We used to come in once a month but I can't remember the last time that I came in and I don't want to watch it on the screen.

Headteacher: We provide opportunities for parents to come into school such as, 'Parent Forum' to discuss any issues to ensure parents feel welcomed into our school.

*Action taken: We have set up termly parent meetings*

Parent: I struggle to get in touch with the school, we can't get in touch on the phone regarding any issues.

Headteacher: We endeavour to always answer the phone when we are able to do so.

Parent: It's tough not being able to have a playground, the road is too busy.

Parent: The school needs to look at the times that children can be picked up.

Business Manager: We have to abide by law with the amount of hours pupils attend school.

Parent: We would be interested in after school clubs, but we receive the letters the day before which is not good. There is poor communication at times.

Business Manager: We are aware of this and we are currently looking into ways to improve this.

