

Parent Forum – 5.3.25

Present:

Fiona Walkington
Jenni Edge
Fliss Dodd
Amelia Hyden
Kelli Hutton (Governor)
Sharon Liversey (Deputy Head)
Clare Cotton (Learning Mentor Inclusion)

Notes:

Communication

Parents generally happy that communication has been reduced to School Bulletin and Blog and they no longer have to sift through information. Parents like that the blog shares 'insider' information about school that parents are not aware of. EYFS parents feel that there are multiple places that information can be found – Tapestry, Seesaw, Parent Pay etc.

Parents feel the additional information included on Seesaw is positive. Although Parents are able to make comments, some would like to be able to share information/photographs on things children do out of school. Contact the Teacher button is disabled to support staff wellbeing and to avoid staff being put under extra pressure by being contacted outside of the school day. Will look at next steps in September.

Reading/Books/Parent sessions

Parents and children enjoyed making a 'Book in a box' at home to celebrate World Book Day. All work was sent home with children on 5th March, Parents would have preferred to have had the work sent home on 6th March following the last book fair session so that they could view them in the hall. It was explained that staff were concerned that children's work may get broken/ruined if they stayed on display for much longer.

Parents are happy with the option of their child/ren dressing up or wearing their own clothes for World Book Day. Lots of fun activities planned for the children to enjoy – Author visit, special lunch, assembly etc.

In relation to children taking home reading for pleasure books, initially the priority in school was getting children secured with their phonics. Mrs Liversey spoke to the rest of SLT and requested that reading for pleasure books should be taken home consistently in both infants and juniors. EYFS children have been bringing reading for pleasure books home since the start of the school year.

Parents feel there is no consistency in Teachers acknowledging Reading Logs. Some Teachers clearly mark when children have read, others not. Some children receive 'Strive for Five' bookmarks and reach the top of their class reading charts, others not. Teachers have posted messages on Seesaw reminding parents to send reading logs in with their children and when parents do this, the reading logs are still not marked or signed.

Some EYFS parents are unsure what to do with their children's reading logs. Although there is information on the school website and discussed in the first parent meeting, parents feel it needs to be clearer and consistent.

Early Years phonics meeting recently took place during the school day. This was well attended and well received by parents.

There are maths workshops being planned across Years 1-6 in the coming weeks.

Stay and Play sessions for parents in Foxes and Squirrels was well attended.

Meals/Snacks

Children are enjoying the new 'pizza' snack which is now available every Tuesday in the Juniors. Bacon baguettes are available for snack every Thursday. Baguettes have proven to be more cost effective than bread.

Clubs

Year 1 parents have shared that there are a number of club clashes as 3 clubs fall on the same day - Reading booster, Mad Science & sports club. Parents whose children attend reading boosters feel that they cannot withdraw children to go to the other clubs. Agreed to look at clubs/days in the Summer term.

Year 3 sports clubs, Parents feel when the email gets sent to Parents, within ten minutes, all of the places have been taken. Parents have asked if a warning email can be sent prior to the dates being released. Parents also asked that if a child who is booked onto a club but then does not attend the first week, can places be offered out to other children.

The offer of Academic clubs has been well received. Parents shared it is nice to hear that children who are doing well have been recognised and being pushed/challenged to achieve more.

Any other business

Bike-a-bility – Year 4 parent asked if Woodlands were taking part to encourage children to ride their bikes safely.

Forest School is continuing with children. Mrs Ahmad has organised a tree planting event on 17th March. One child will attend from each class.

Parents requested **diary dates** be sent out well in advance so people can book time off work. Summer dates will be sent out before the Easter break.

PTA events – Easter bingo event & Summer Fair planned. Dates will be sent out shortly.

Parental What's App groups - Mixed 3/4 – quiet. Year 1 can be chaotic – two classes in one. Reception – quiet.

Uniform – Children in EYFS losing jumpers – Parents shared when they are looking for lost jumpers, a lot do not have names on them.

Parent has used 'Uniformity' to purchase a new jumper, noticed slightly different colour of green. 'Uniformity' do offer an option for parents to order and deliver to school. This is not something Woodlands will be offering as school do not have the staff capacity to hand deliveries to parents.

The Uniform Shop are selling a 'Woodlands' branded black PE hoodie. Feedback is that they are expensive and do not wash well. Some parents feel other parents may feel pressure to buy when they see children wearing them in the playground/school.

Recruitment drive in September for **new Parent Forum** members.

Date of next meeting: TBC in Summer term