

Parent Forum – 29.3.2022

Attendees:

Sharon Liversey
Kellie Hutton
Niki Clegg
Jenny Edge
Felicity Dodd
Rachel Simkins
Fiona Walkington
Charlene Chambers
Jennifer Clark

Apologies:

Lynne Chesters
Viki Holland
Lucy Morris
Adele Blamey
Lisa Blundell
Clare Cotton

Welcome & Introductions

Welcome to new members of parent forum

House System & Points

Some parents feel that the current house point system is not promoted enough in EYFS and some parents would like to know more information about how it works.

SL shared how the houses work – children & siblings are assigned to a house on arrival to Woodlands. Children are awarded points for a host of things eg positive behaviour choices, effort in work, manners etc – linked to our ready, respectful and safe positive behaviour for learning policy.

SL shared the original intentions of the system (pre-Covid) – termly ‘treat’ for the winning house, house points shared in assemblies etc. Sports Day was also linked to Houses pre Covid. However, due to Covid and the restrictions that were in place we did give out points but had to manage it in ‘bubbles’. SL shared that displays that promoted the system were year group centred and celebrations of winning houses that had accumulated the most points weekly/termly was done in classes/year groups.

SL shared that the houses are based on inspirational people. SL shared that in September, we are wanting to freshen up the names of the inspirational people to make it a little bit more current to the children eg Captain Tom, Greta Thunberg, The Queen, etc. Parent Forum agreed that this would be a good idea as children can relate / know more about these people.

1 member of the forum suggested that, for EYFS, alongside having the names of the Houses maybe use the house colours as the EYFS children may relate better to colours. Another parent forum member suggested posting the points on the weekly newsletter

AOB:

Parent’s evening feedback

Online parents evening appointments are, in the main, supported positively by parents. Parents would, however, like the opportunity to come into school to see their children’s books eg stay & play in EYFS, drop-ins in KS1 & 2. Parent feedback is that the online appointments keep everyone (including staff) on track and focussed. SL shared that SLT had already discussed looking at ways of bringing parents into school in the summer term and this will be shared after Easter. It was suggested that drop-ins happen before a parents evening appointment so that work can be discussed.

Residentials

Feedback from Y4 is that the 1-day activity visit to Menai for Y4 has been met with great positivity. Some parents were anxious that it may have been an overnight stay but feel the 1 day extended visit is a good compromise. Parent Forum asked if, moving forward, are there any other residentials planned? SL shared that Y2 are going to Menai in July and that we are looking at next year with possibly Y2/Y4 & Y6 having residentials. This will be discussed in SLT in summer term

After School Clubs:

Some clubs are clashing eg boosters, mad science, football etc all seem to be on a Wednesday. SL shared that we are governed by external clubs' availability eg Mad Science and also staff availability – staff meetings are on a Tues & Thurs so we can't run a club (eg boosters) on those nights.

Homework

Parent feedback about the return of homework books is positive. Parents feel it supports handwriting development and takes away extended screen time for children and reduces GC time.

Classes & staff next year

The question was asked about what classes the current Y2's would go into when they move to Y3 due the current mixed class. SL explained that in EYFS/KS1 class numbers are capped at 30 max but in KS2 it can be 30+ so historically children in Y2 have sometimes gone into 2 classes when in they move to Y3. SL explained that budgets impact how school classes are set up. SL shared that when classes are merged many things are taken into account and that staff spend a lot of time looking at how to move children fairly to ensure an equitable balance. SL shared that usually, new classes and staffing are discussed in summer term 1. SL talked about how this year, now that schools are operating without all of the previous Covid restrictions we will offer enhanced transition eg Y2 joining KS2 lunchtimes 1 x weekly, attending KS2 assemblies etc.

Curriculum

French was discussed as parent had noted that on the newsletter a French 'word of the week' is shared. SL explained that French is a statutory KS2 subject but the subject leader, Miss Gittens, has introduced French into KS1.

It was discussed about the possibility of subject leaders coming to talk to parent forum at future meetings to give an overview of how each subject is taught at Woodlands. SL said that this is something that can be planned for in the next academic year.

Gus

Positive feedback about Gus as an addition to the school family. KS1 and EYFS parents would like him to be more visible on the infant site. SL explained that we currently have a child in EYFS who is allergic so we have to be monitor where Gus spends time.

Date of next meeting:

Tuesday 14th June 6pm