

15th September 2021

Parent Forum Meeting

PRESENT

Rebecca Wilkinson
Ruth Culley
Lee Pimblett
27 Parent Attendees

AGENDA ITEMS

- Minutes of last meeting
- School Priorities (RW)
- School Update Attendance, Behaviour, Mobile phones (RC)
- Growth Mindset (RW)
- P4C (RW)
- Parent Pay (LP)
- COVID Risk Assessment (RW/LP)
- Parental Feedback

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

<u>ACTION TO BE TAKEN</u>	<u>BY WHOM</u>
Parent Forum Meetings will continue on Zoom and will alternate between 9.30am and 6pm)	SLT

SCHOOL PRIORITIES

- To increase the percentage of pupils achieving Age Related Expectations in Reading, Writing and Maths Combined
- To sustain and enhance the Catholic Character of the school
- To enhance pupils' Personal Development through further development of the curriculum and of the school grounds.
- To enhance our provision of Mental Health support for all our stakeholders

ATTENDANCE

- As per the recent letter to parents, school are focusing upon attendance this year with our target being 97%
- Knowsley Council have produced an Attendance Handbook (available on their website)
- School are holding weekly meetings about attendance to identify pupils requiring support
- School would like to work in partnership with parents to secure good attendance.

BEHAVIOUR

- School are working in partnership with an agency (KCA) to develop our Relationships Policy
- There are three 'expectations' for pupils:-
 - Be Safe
 - Be Respectful
 - Be Your Best

- Adults dealing with pupil behaviour in school are being encouraged to self regulate before they address a child who is in a heightened state.
- In the minority of cases where a child struggles with behaviour, other agencies may need to be involved.

MOBILE PHONES

- Mobile phones should not be used without a school contract in place -this is because last year we dealt with far too many mobile phone related issues.
- Phones should be handed to the class teacher on entry to the classroom and should not be switched on until the child is off the school premises.

GROWTH MINDSET

- Growth Mindset is currently being rolled out in all classes and there is a 'Growth Mindset' award each week.
- The idea of Growth Mindset is the idea that 'effort' rather than 'achievement' is rewarded (so instead of saying 'you are really clever' or 'you are really good at this' we would instead say 'you have worked really hard at this task'.
- We are aiming to develop a positive mindset within our pupils and encouraging them to be more resilient when faced with a challenge (so instead of saying 'I can't do this' we are encouraging them to say 'I can't do this YET'.
- We would encourage parents to use Growth Mindset Language with their child (and avoid saying things to their child like 'I could never do Maths when I was at school'. "I am no good at... e.g., Art/ Sport')

PHILOSOPHY FOR CHILDREN (P4C)

- In a bid to make our pupils more resilient and better able to reason, Philosophy for Children is being rolled out across all classes.
- Within Philosophy for Children pupils are encouraged to discuss philosophical questions and have to accept that other people may have a difference of opinion and this is perfectly fine.
- Philosophy for Children is a discussion rather than a debate and the teacher acts as a facilitator within the discussion (i.e., doesn't offer an opinion).

PARENT PAY

- For everything that parents need to pay for in school, they should do this via parent pay.
- Any parents having issues with parent pay should contact school.

COVID RISK ASSESSMENT

- The COVID Risk Assessment is constantly updated in line with Government guidance and is available on the website.

QUESTIONS/QUERIES FROM PARENTS

<u>QUERY</u>	<u>RESPONSE</u>
Can a Growth Mindset/P4C Workshop/ Relationships be held for parents?	This is something that can happen as soon as these initiatives begin to be more embedded in classes. Mrs Culley will look into the possibility of hosting a Parent Workshop on the Relationships Policy
What kind of questions are discussed in P4C?	Open questions that generate informed, rational, respectful and honest disagreement (love, friendship, nature, art, money etc)
Can we get timetables for each class as to when PE Days, Spelling Tests, Homework is due?	RW to arrange for class teachers to do this
Concerns were raised over some of the jobs being given in classes eg. handing coats out etc when COVID still hasn't gone away.	RW asked that parents message her privately if there are aspects in a specific class that parents are not happy with.
Will Year 4 parents be able to watch the Harvest service?	A decision on this has not been finalised. At this stage we are back to doing all Assemblies/Collective Worship virtually.
Do children take home a Reading Book?	Classes are taking reading books home.
Is there a restriction on Toilet Breaks?	There are no restrictions on toilet breaks but we do encourage the children to go to the toilet at playtime and lunchtime.
Do parents choose meals for their child like they did in the infants?	The children themselves make lunch choices at Key stage 2.
Are there any PTA events this Year?	Mrs Cook (Chair of PTA) explained that there would be some PTA events this year and that these would be dependent upon restrictions within school. A PTA meeting will be taking place soon.
My child ordered fish last Friday but had to have something else?	RW explained that, as a school we were at fault and apologised for this.
Can the children say that they don't want peas/ beans on their plate?	Yes-they just need to tell the person who is serving the lunch when they get to the hatch.
Is there a syllabus for Year 3?	The Year group Long Term Plans are available on the website.
Do Year 5 have Sex Education?	Yes-there will be a meeting about this over the next few weeks.
Will Google Classroom continue to be used when children are self-isolating?	This method of providing work is much easier if whole classes are self isolating. Where individual pupils are self isolating, it is likely that pupils will be directed to the relevant week of the Oak Learning materials on the website. Some teachers may continue to put some work onto Google Classroom (e.g., for homework)
Can pupils switch between dinners and packed lunch?	Yes.
Is the Dojo system used differently in different classes? Do we have to pay for Dojo?	All classes use the Dojo system. It is not necessary to pay for Dojo as there is a free app (there is a premium version of the app but it is not essential that parents have this as school use the basic version.

PARENT COMMENTS

Parents were very complimentary about:-

- The fact that school still has restrictions in place (e.g., staggered start, separate lunchtimes)
- The new initiatives (Growth Mindset/ P4C)
- Live assemblies (even though these are unfortunately now virtual again)
- Hot dinners
- Improvement in Communication-in particular the texting service (Year 3 will be added to the texting service over the next week or so).

The next Parent Forum Meeting will take place on **Wednesday 24th November** at the later time of **6pm**.