

Parent Forum meeting agenda  
Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024

<p>1. Welcome and apologies</p>	<p>Present: Mrs Fletcher (DHT), Mrs Rackham (DHT), Mr Ferris (Chair of governors), NW (Kingfisher), MP (Rhino), KE-F (Albatross), EP (Jaguar), AJ (Ocelot), CJ (Koala &amp; Pangolin), SI (Narwhal), VS (Panda), KB (Otter)</p> <p>Apologies: AK (Hippo), LH (Penguin), JS (Koala)</p>
<p>2. Questions/queries raised:</p>	
<p>Rhino class: Please could we talk about the possibility of having different week days for open classrooms.</p>	<p>The reason it is on a Wednesday is because we take the time out of our staff meeting time. There are set hours we can direct teachers for and it would be unfair for us to direct them on another afternoon because they have lots to do when the children leave. Wednesday is also the day most staff members are in. If you cannot do Wednesdays, please speak with your child's class teacher and they will be happy for you to pop in on another day. The expectation is that the session is child-led.</p>
<p>Hippo class: No points were raised before the meeting.</p>	
<p>Kiwi class: No points were raised before the meeting.</p>	
<p>Koala class: 1. It's great to see further opportunities for parents to view the children's work but could the day be changed in future terms. By keeping it consistently on a Wednesday some children/parents miss out on these visits. 2. On a more positive note it's great to see some dates in the newsletter for next half term. If we don't get them in advance I sometimes book after school club then find myself cancelling it as I am at the school at pick up. 3. All the other year groups have at least one class trip planned, but not year 1? 4. Each morning by 8.40 all other children go into the classrooms and ours usually gets opened around 8.42-8.45. I know it's only a few minutes but quite a few parents are heading to work after to time is of the essence.</p>	<p>1. Answered previously. 2. We are glad you find this useful. We have been doing it at the beginning of each term for over a year now so please keep an eye out for those newsletters. Rep suggested adding key dates after half term for the rest of this half term and first half of summer term. School will do this for the dates they have, we just might not have them all. 3. The teachers are in the process of planning these, they just weren't able to get a date confirmed in time for the dates newsletter. The trips planned for Year 1 were better suited to the spring and summer term. 4. We understand your frustrations around this, we will talk to the staff about this.</p>
<p>Otter class: - Lovely to have the 'thank you for paying for us to go on xxx trip' notes on classroom window following school trips. Much appreciated. - Christmas dinner was a lovely event, thank you. - Thank you for all the fun and exciting activities and opportunities the children are given.</p>	<p>Thank you for the positive feedback. 1. A letter will be coming out by the end of this week. 2. Answered previously. 3. This was forwarded to Mr Reed and Mrs Barradas and was dealt with. We apologise the parent didn't get a response, it was a particularly busy day in the office that day.</p>

1. Is World Book Day going ahead? Could there be some forewarning if so to allow parents plenty of time to prepare and account for an additional expense if needed? One parent is happy to donate a costume or two if it can be of use, or donate some time to help prepare anything in school (provided sufficient notice is given).

2. Can different days be looked at for when parents go in after school to look at work to try and find a way of more parents being able to attend. Some parents work Wednesdays and they/their child constantly misses out leaving both children and parents feeling sad as there's no alternative.

3. Forest School - a parent last week had their car damaged by a stick thrown from Forest School (witnessed by another parent too, possibly a junior school class). She mentioned it to the Forest School teacher but didn't feel as though her comment was taken seriously. The parent has also emailed the Junior Office but has had no response.

4. Please can more support be put in place for children's mental health and wellbeing. Children have been unsettled and lots of incidents are going on. Can the children be supported more to help with managing situations? (Parents have contacted class to raise direct but it's a more general follow on to ask how the children are being supported)

5. The tone of the letter sent out regarding class behaviour before Christmas placed unnecessary worry on some parents whose children weren't involved. Was there a need for all parents to be informed if their child's behaviour wasn't cause for concern? Could something different have been sent instead to those parents or a different approach taken?

Have things calmed down now in the class?

6. Issues at breaktime with behaviours - are these monitored and by who? What happens if bad behaviour happens during break time? There is a feeling that incidents aren't followed up consistently.

A concern about the lack of provision at breaktime too.

7. Breakfast club:

-Is it oversubscribed or short staffed? Do the staff have specific training to deal with children with additional needs and mental health? If not, could this be put in action?

-Please can breakfast club staff communicate with class teachers eg) of any problems, notices etc. A parent feels there is a lack of communication

4. We have contacted the MHST, PSHE curriculum, on-going work in class, support from Ms Baumann our wellbeing LSA, weekly wellbeing lessons, Zones of Regulation, class social story, increased communication with parents, lots of modelling of positive interactions and behaviour. Rep suggested putting this in the newsletter so parents know what's happening and also what's on offer when pupils need that extra support.

5. This links to the last comment, the concerns for the class were becoming more general, which is why the decision was made to write to all parents in the class. We felt we needed the support of you all at that time. It wasn't an easy letter to write. We were hearing different things from different parents about what was being said and this was the best way of ensuring you all heard the same message from us. As a result of all of the actions that were put in place, things have calmed down which is positive.

6. At the moment, behaviour of children in Otter Class is monitored even more closely than usual, staff are reminded every week in our staff briefing. Any incidents of poor behaviour are reported to the class teachers. Each class has a behaviour log for recording incidents, please read the regulation and relationships policy. We will be having another stay and play session next term, please come along and see what happens at playtimes. If you have concerns about individual incidents, please raise this with the class teacher.

7. The staff are all trained, they're fully staffed and meet regularly with our SENCo. There are very few issues but when there is, the staff let teachers know when they drop the children off at their classroom door.

8. Yes, we can raise this with them. The reason we had back-to-back mufti days before Christmas is because there weren't enough donations of bottles and sweets.

<p>between the two and a handover for some could be beneficial.</p> <p>8. Before Christmas, lots of requests for donations - Winter Warmer mufti days and lots of charity events. Could PTA mufti days etc, for events be more spread out over a term? While parents appreciate they are all optional, it did feel as though we were constantly being asked to support and donate something; could these be slimmed down - perhaps the children could pick which ones to support each year?</p>	
<p>Kingfisher class:</p> <p>It was good that the school put a page of dates in the newsletter of things coming up for the term.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Are the class assemblies for parents to attend? Or just for the pupils?</li> <li>2. More for PTA, The winter warmer, fab event. Could the wait for father Christmas be jazzed up a bit? Maybe some music? A Quiz or something to keep the children occupied while waiting, as queue is long.</li> <li>3. Could parents who stand outside reception classrooms also be as considerate of the children trying to navigate their way through to their classrooms in the mornings, the world would be a much better, happier place!! Could the path be widened?</li> <li>4. Scooters have been an issue because not all kids are careful on them or go so far on, that the parent can't see them to tell them to slow down.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Class assemblies are for parents to attend.</li> <li>2. We can pass this suggestion on to them.</li> <li>3. We agree this is an issue and will ask Reception class reps to send a message to their WhatsApp groups asking them to be mindful of this.</li> <li>4. Children shouldn't be on scooters and bikes on the school site, we can enforce this once more. Please put a reminder in your WhatsApp groups.</li> </ol>
<p>Albatross class: No points were raised before the meeting.</p>	
<p>Penguin class:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Please can the children have pegs instead of lockers. With being out in the rain (before Xmas) at break time &amp; lunch time, child's coat was still soaking wet when he came home, because it's just shoved in a locker. I think pegs would work better for this.</li> <li>2. The winter warmer was great but definitely think it would've been better at the junior school as space wise it was quite chaotic. Excellent event and something we look forward too each year. However it is chaotic inside the infant school. Could there be a better way to host this by utilising the junior school space or having "German style" market with gazebos on the field with lighting?</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. This is a good idea, it'll just take a while to implement due to budget. We will speak to Mr Meads. We will trial this with Year 3 initially and roll it out throughout the school if it's a success.</li> <li>2. Good ideas, we will pass the onto the PTA.</li> </ol>
<p>Narwhal class:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. I would like to ask why they don't seem to be having any school trips?</li> <li>2. I wanted to understand why the snacks for after school club have changed. They used to be a little</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There will be trips, some topics lend themselves to trips more than others.</li> <li>2. We will bring this up with breakfast club. There is often a selection for the children to choose from.</li> </ol>

<p>healthier and they provided toast or crumpets but it sounds as though they now offer crisps and biscuits instead. There is of course the possibility that I'm not getting the full picture from the boys but just wondered if it could be raised as a question?</p>	
<p>Turtle class: No points were raised before the meeting.</p>	
<p>Pangolin class:  Parking and speeding around school, especially juniors. Polite reminder to all parents to please park considerately. Parking on corners in particular makes it especially difficult for pedestrians to cross and for cars to turn safely in/out of junctions. Please remember we have many year 6's who walk to school by themselves. I know many of us have struggled to cross safely, please consider how tricky it is for them to see and cross safely without an adult.</p>	<p>The pupil parliament have spoken about this and they will soon be sending out a parking promise to all parents. They also plan to meet with someone from the council about these issues. CJ has contacted the local council about it. There are going to be yellow lines put on the corners, these will be enforceable. We are hoping this will be done in February or March. This has also been discussed at governors' meetings. If parents see an incident or near-miss, please write a report and send it into school for the attention of the governors because we need evidence before the council will do anything.</p>
<p>Panda class: No points were raised before the meeting.</p>	
<p>Ocelot class:  Can the children be given pegs for their coats at school. Children are coming home with wet dirty coats from lunch and we believe they only have their lockers to place them which won't help with the drying.</p>	<p>Answered previously.</p>
<p>Jaguar class:  - Our child is really enjoying year 6  1. Year 6 road safety - it might be a good idea for both classes to have a quick review of road safety. There have been instances of year 6 parents witnessing children not looking to cross the roads, or cycling in the middle of the road/speeding round corners etc. We have put notes to the parents in both class whats app groups to the parents to remind the kids to look before crossing roads, and being aware when on bikes. Might be also worth a school session in general too.  2. Year 6 leavers - we had a question about what the plans would be.  3. SATS - is the school calendar correct that they are w/c 13 May?</p>	<p>1. The Junior School had an assembly about road safety just before Christmas and it does come up in the PSHE curriculum. We will continue to speak with them about this. Year 6 have Bikeability sessions in the spring term. We are also looking into scooter safety training for children. We encourage children to ride bikes and scooters to school and we are aware Year 6s can come to school without a parent or carer so we know it is important that the children are aware of road safety.  2. This was discussed at the PTA meeting on Monday evening. The teachers will start planning this soon but it is still quite a way off. We will make sure it's special for them as when they left Year 2, COVID ruined their celebrations.  3. Yes</p>
<p>Other points parent reps brought up at the meeting</p>	<p>- Panda – Staffing plan for after half term. This term has been really good because they've had Mr Claridge after half term. Mrs Ratcliffe is coming back after Easter, this will be 4 days a week until Easter. We are currently looking at options for the Friday to keep as much continuity as possible for</p>

	<p>the children. We will let you know if there are any changes. We will send a letter when this has been confirmed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reception – Please can they be out more promptly.</li> <li>- The cinema trip was well received by all of the children in Year 2.</li> </ul>
<p>3. Information/updates/queries from the schools</p> <p>-</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Please can parent reps put a poll in their class WhatsApp group to ask who reads the newsletter?</li> <li>- Do you find the drop-in sessions useful? Do you want to continue them? Rep suggested sending the link out via text message. Could important information be in bold. Start by bullet pointing the important information.</li> <li>- If a parent has raised an issue with school, they don't then need to bring it up again for the parent forum meeting. If the issue is ongoing, they need to come back to us.</li> <li>- A new bike rack is being installed at the Junior School, this was something raised at a previous Parent Forum meeting.</li> <li>- A reminder that teachers should only be looking at emails from parents once a week.</li> <li>- Mrs Higgins came in to the meeting at this point to talk about the possibility of putting wrap-around care booking online. She would like feedback from classes about how this would be received. It would still be on a first come, first served basis. It would be done via Google Forms because we are two schools. We are also open to suggestions of better systems if anyone knows of any!</li> </ul>
<p>4. Date, time and location of the next meeting.</p>	<p>Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 2:00pm in the Infant School hall.</p>