

Parent Forum Minutes

Thursday 24th November

Mrs Bridgman, Mrs Kirwin, Mrs Levene, Mrs Rushforth, Mr Sims

- **Actions from previous meeting:**

- Intensive swimming lessons available at pool in Ware. Date will be finalised with the pool in late Spring Term.
- New website being developed by designers for launch in January.
- Information sessions for phonics/maths timetabled for Spring Term.
- My School App being trialled until 2nd December.
- EYFS 'Tapestry' has moved over to a new website. Mrs Robinson-Moore will be able to share access with parents from next term.
- Athletics trial was successful for children in Y1-6 and school has paid annual subscription. Teacher will be able to set extra optional homework using Athletics.
- Sports coach is delivering one session of games and one session of gymnastics every week this half term. Wall bars are being used.

- **Behaviour Policy and Code**

- Mrs Bridgman shared the behaviour code with parents. Feedback was positive. The code and policy are available on our school website.
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- **My School App feedback**

- Some parents do not have a smartphone or have found it not compatible with the phone they own
- Parents like the calendar and news.
- Reminders were helpful for parents.
- Parents like the current newsletters and felt they share quite a bit of news already.
- Mrs Bridgman explained that 17 users had signed up for the app. The cost is £250 per year. The interactive calendar and a news blog will be on the new school website (launching in January).
- The general feeling was that the app may not be necessary. Parents were keen that views of all app users are sought before a final decision is made.

ACTION:

Mrs Bridgman to invite feedback from all app users and then decide whether or not to buy in.

- **AOB**

- **After school clubs**

- Parents requested that school clubs could be extended to include more year groups so more children can benefit.
- Parents asked about an after school club being run similar to breakfast club. Mrs Bridgman is trying to organise this from September 2017. There are staffing and budget implications

- Parents asked about companies coming to run after school specialist clubs. Mrs Bridgman explained that these cost between £5-10 per week for each child and that historically there has not been enough interest

ACTION:

Mrs Bridgman to look at numbers/year groups for clubs to try to give more opportunity.

Mrs Bridgman to work with school council to collect children's preferences for clubs and adapt what we offer from January as necessary.

- **Parents asked what the protocol will be for bad weather/school closure this year.**
Mrs Bridgman explained there is a new system called 'Everbridge' used by the County Council. This will replace the teachers calling parents.

ACTION: Mrs Moorehead to resend Parentmail about Everbridge.

- **Christmas play**
 - Some parents are disappointed that there will only be one performance of the play. This could be difficult for working parents to attend.
 - Mrs Bridgman explained that the changes to the Christmas play had been for several reasons: the £650 annual stage hire, not wanting to spend too much curriculum time in KS2 on practising the play, aiming to have the whole school celebrate Christmas in the church. KS2 will do readings/prayers and help with narrating. They will sing traditional carols.

ACTION: Mrs Bridgman to invite parents to dress rehearsal if they cannot make main performance.

- **A parent suggested we get involved in Christmas jumper day.**
It clashes with our nativity performance day. We discussed how for some parents it would be another expense.

ACTION: Children will be allowed to wear a Christmas jumper or accessory on Christmas dinner day Wednesday 14th December. We will not ask for charitable donations for this.