

Shirley Infant School – Parent Forum – Spring 2

Date: Thursday 25th March 2021

Purpose: *The parent forum is an important and valued (by both school and parents/carers) communication link. It is an opportunity for parents/carers to provide feedback, seek clarity/confirmation, raise general concerns and make suggestions. It is a two way partnership and the school will also utilise this platform for purposes such as to propose new initiatives, changes, or gain feedback on parental engagement. By working together we can continue to make Shirley Infant School a great place for children to thrive and support the motto of 'Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day'.*

Attendees

FOSIS Chair – Jo James
Deputy Head – Mrs Watts
FOSIS Secretary – Amy Mayhew

Parent Reps:

Katy Durston - Rabbits
Lisa Witt - Hedgehogs
Laura Sparks - Squirrels
Maria Dimech - Otters
Mel Durman - Owls
Naomi Rogers - Foxes
Carly Sykes - Moles
Cath Dixon - Woodpeckers

Apologies

Badgers

Agenda

1. Positive feedback
2. Covid-19 related
3. Lunch
4. General

LW: wanted to start by saying a huge thanks the parents – you did it – the kids are back and full of positivity and joy, we love having them back and it's like they have never been away. Their resilience has been amazing and that is thanks to the parents and carers – you did and continue to do an amazing job!

JJ: Thanked Laura and confirmed we continue to have such a huge amount of respect for teachers and all that they do.

1. Feedback:

- Good thing about this situation is seeing all the teachers in action making screen learning interesting and fun and manageable from a parent's perspective. All of them have been great. Seeing Mrs Vogt and Mr Segun this week has been lovely too. Such positive and patient teachers.
- As ever, a heartfelt thank you to all the teachers and staff, who have continued to do their very best for the children under very trying circumstances.
- New e-mail communication is much better - great to have all letters etc in one place
- Mrs Vogt and Mr Segun have been amazing throughout lockdown, we couldn't have wished for more, thank you.

- Mrs Vogt and Mr Segun have been wonderful this week with all the live lessons - the children are having fun and engaged in their learning from home.
- Thanks to all of the hard work and effort from the school in engaging parents and children of those learning at home
- The constant asking for feedback and reacting to that feedback and constantly changing and improving was excellent. And the level of communication was great too. So thank you, thank you, thank you! JJ: Thanks to all the work the parent reps have done to collate feedback throughout also
- Thank you to Miss Dunne for the feedback each week during home schooling. Our child was part time in school and the rest at home. We were given an update mid week each week to advise what our child had been doing etc. This helped us know what sections of the remaining week home schooling to particularly focus on if needed. Really helpful and greatly appreciated. Thank you so much to Miss Dunne!
Show and tell on a Friday during lockdown - great idea! The children got so excited each week to show their friends something. A great way to finish the week for them.
- Thanks for all the teachers and school did during the last lockdown – they were so responsive and introducing the daily morning check made a real difference in our household.
- Mrs Clark's music sessions - a big thank you! As a parent it was lovely to listen in to the music class each week during home schooling. Our child really enjoyed these sessions, especially finding different objects to use for sounds. Thank you Mrs Clark!
- We love all of the Woodpeckers teachers but the fact Mrs Watts has been providing additional support in Mrs Gregory's absence and still contributing and adding feedback going above and beyond didn't go unnoticed. Also her messages on MM and google class room were just so lovely and positive, they really made a difference (this comment was agreed with lots on the class chat!)

2. Covid-19 related

- 2.1 Would it be possible for the school to inform all parents when positive case identified as standard (infants & juniors)? While appreciate won't necessarily effect all due to bubbles but would be good to know to make decisions on seeing vulnerable bubble member if cases in school.

LW: We take guidance from Public Health (and they provide the letters we send) and while they are next door, the juniors are a separate school and we are advised not to share juniors/infants. It will be considered again.

- 2.2 When it is safe please can we start leaving bikes/scooters on the school site?

LW: Yes absolutely, the school will advise as soon as possible

- 2.3 Reporting Covid cases out of hours - can the school confirm if a Covid case is reported over the weekend, will this be picked up (or does these need to be an out of hours contact to report?)

LW: During holidays the leadership team are on a rota to monitor emails. Confirmed that Office team will be picking up emails over the weekends so if case reported can be picked up prior to Monday morning

3. Lunch

- 3.1 Please could lunch menus be sent out again?

LW: New menu to be sent out tomorrow 26th March – and this will be a return to the full menu which is great news

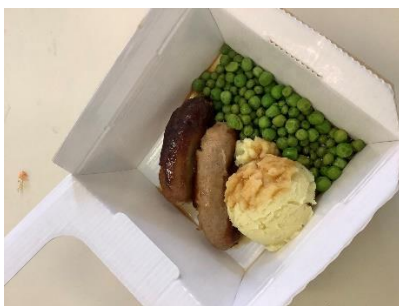
KD: Asked if this will include the allergy options?

LW: Yes, it should do but if any further information needed then please contact the office

- 3.2 Have lunch breaks been shortened? Some children have said they haven't had enough time to eat their lunch.

LW: No, remains as advised in the return to school booklet. They do have 20-30 mins lunch, however thinks that sometimes where they are eating in classrooms there are sometimes not distractions (opposed to when went to the hall to eat) as teachers may play number blocks on the screen or similar, teachers are aware and trying to encourage/manage this.

- 3.3 Thank you to chartwells for the new hot dinners menu. Since the Xmas break we have managed to persuade our little one to try lots of different options on the menu. She has loved them all. Great change
- 3.4 Some parents are still thinking the hot dinner menu is the Grab and Go and not clear on the new hot dinner offering since Christmas. *Prior to forum, School have provided following pictures to help;*



Suggestions/requests to chartwells;

- 3.5 If possible, to just have a fish day every Friday, like it used to be, without meat every third week, so that it's less confusing.

LW: The Friday chicken option is very popular with children (one of the biggest uptake options). But understands it's confusing. Hopefully returning to the but with full menu returning after Easter will help.

- 3.6 Would be amazing to have more choices for non-meat eating children. Jacket potatoes are great, but to have these pretty much every day can get a bit restricting. Last academic year was amazing, when there was a different dish each day, albeit appreciate the company may be operating differently now.

LW: Thanks for bearing with us

- 3.7 Occasionally food can be served when it's no longer hot or warm, wonder if there may be a way to keep an eye on that.

LW: School are closing monitoring. Chartwells have been really reactive to our feedback on things so we'll continue to work with them.

4. General

- 4.1 Year 2 transition - Are the infants able to provide any information on transition to juniors for year 2 as yet (or advise when info will be shared?). Parent keen to know how will this be managed and if decision has been made about mixing up classes?

LW: It's a junior decision re class being mixed, though infants will work with them. Places are allocated in mid-April and packs will be ready to be sent out immediately and then info will follow. Parents encourages to speak to class teacher at parents evening in any particular concerns.

LW also wanted to gain feedback ahead of planned move to year group bubbles after Easter. Have thought hard about this and feel it is the right time, less restrictions for children, more space to run and will also help integration for if classes mixed for next academic year. Parents Reps all very happy about this transition.

- 4.2 Year R learning - year R parent explained that after home schooling and insight to learning they now feel a little distant and disconnected from what their child is learning. It would be great if phonics and tricky words that they've been working on could be included in the weekly update. Parent remembers from when first child was in year R they received maths ideas such as 'when you're walking home school look at the numbers on the houses etc' – would be great to get these again

LW really understands this, it may be a case of some teachers getting back into the rhythm of MM again but there should be a weekly MM regarding what the class have been doing. There should normally be a 1/2ly curriculum letter, and Y1 & 2 phonics booklet sent out regularly. Laura encouraged any parents feeling disconnected and wanting to know more to email the school to ask questions or request call.

Hopefully upcoming parents evening will also help. Target cards coming out tomorrow with children ahead of parents evening – hopefully it will start to feel more like normal after Easter. The school are also planning another virtual celebration event for summer term too.

- 4.3 Lost property – parent reporting that labelled clothing is going missing and not being returned. Can be frustrating & expensive! Is there anything that can be done?
 LW: Really not sure where it goes as there is no lost property at school.... Please email the office asap and the teacher will have a good look. Also advised posting on the facebook page as sometimes taken by another child and can be a good way to get returned.
- 4.4 Please can lunch time play areas be rotated regularly? Concerns from Woodpeckers parents that children squeezed to small area, also that year 2 can have some time on the play equipment. Golden mile space also seems restrictive.
 LW: Hopefully moving to year group bubbles after Easter will help this. Year 2 will have the Astro, Tarmac area and Field. All being well in Summer 2 we will be able to be back to normal and Y2 will have access to play equipment.
- 4.5 Year 2 query around the pace at which the children move from topic to topic in maths. During home learning, my child was really only starting to understand the topic and we then moved on the next week to something else. The maths curriculum seems to be broad but shallow. Can you please give reassurance that learning is revisited and they are able to consolidate their learning.
 (LW gave a great explanation of how the normal 'learning progression' that focused on ensuring secure but minute taker has not transcribed perfectly!). Essentially, remote learning had to work a little different, they were aware of engagement and wanted to keep the topics fresh/rotated – it was not the normal progression they follow. Please contact teacher with any specific concerns or if further info required.
- 4.6 How is Mrs Gregory, we all continue to send our well wishes for her recovery and know if she doing lots remotely but would love to know how she is doing? We care ☺
 LW: Her recovery has been slower than she'd hoped but is going well, she's following the guidance from HR regarding staged return but has started that return and the children will hopefully say they are starting to see around school which is great (CG added upon review on the minutes that she really can't wait to get back!)

Communication

There have been some further questions asked around communication which have been answered prior to the forum but we felt the following may be useful for confirmation;

Communication / Resources	Primary use
Marvellous me	Used by class teacher to share learning specific updates and information (such as what the class have been doing) and to share individual achievements. It is also used for urgent/emergency notifications to share those sort of messages as quickly as possible – with Covid-19 and over the last year the school have had to apply this more than we would have wanted to.
Weekly communication	An important weekly read that comes out on a Friday PM, includes key information for coming week (and further ahead), general updates and information, references the letters that have been released that week.
Letters	When a more detailed explanation is needed (too long for weekly comms) or an important update.

Phone call (02380 771434)	Parents/carers to call to report absence, the school will call parents/carers of injury/illness of child or at other times when required
Email (office@shirleyschools.co.uk)	Please email the office with subject FAO "Class Teacher". This could be to ask a specific question about your child or request a call from the teacher. The school appreciate that parents do not currently have the opportunity to ask a quick question at the class room door, so please do not hesitate to send an email.
Google Classrooms	Remote learning platform for when required. Will also be utilised for other uses when of use such as video calls parents evening.
mykidatschool app	Online payment for trips
Facebook / Whatapp / messenger groups	These are sometimes used by parents / carers / FOSIS etc to help as additional reminders and parent/carer peer support. They are not run by the school and any info or details that is directly school driven/related will have been included in weekly communications or one of above.