

Shirley Infant School – Parent Forum – Spring 1

Date: Thursday 14th January 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

Chair - Jo James

School representatives: Laura Watts & Hannah Lubett-Smith

Susan Kinch – Co Chair Fosis

Amy Mayhew – Secretary Fosis

Gayle Doulton – Class Rep Moles

Stacey Sellick – Class Rep Owls

Audrey Cooper – Class Rep Badgers

Marle Coetzee – Class Rep Otters

Becky Turnbull – Class Rep Rabbits

Lynsey Powell – Class Rep Hedgehogs

Tom James – Class Rep Foxes

Cath Dixon – Class Rep Woodpeckers

Apologies

Laura/Rich Squirrels

Mia Caruana – Treasurer Fosis

Agenda

1. Positive feedback
2. Covid-19 related
3. Reading
4. Lunches
5. Communication

1. Positive feedback

“I am in awe of the teachers and other staff who keep doing whatever it takes to teach our babies despite having very little support or help from the government. I can't believe they don't get advance notice of changes and the fact that they react so positively, calmly and responsibly is amazing. I want to give every single one of them a massive hug, they are brilliant! (NB - this comment was sent prior to the government announcing lockdown, so it appreciates everything that went on prior to that, let alone everything else that has been dealt with this week!)”

“Thank you to the teachers and all staff again for staying so positive throughout these crazy times. Always grateful for what they do. Thank you also to the school for adapting so quickly this week, the videos from Hamwic on youtube are great and it is wonderful to see how the children are taught abs takes the element of being the teacher out of home learning”

Quite a few parents want to thank the school “they are doing a brilliant job in difficult circumstances”

“Just wanted to pass on a message at the forum to say a massive thank you to the school team, leaders, teachers and support staff for all their continued hard work in this ever changing and extremely challenging time. Everything they do is very much appreciated and not gone unnoticed. Also to wish Miss Gregory a speedy recovery. We hope to see all their smiling faces again at the school soon x”

“Just collected the home resource packs. Thank you to the teachers and FOSIS who helped make this happen so quickly”

JJ: added that there has since been even more positive feedback received re the remote learning adaptation and provision – many parents have been impressed with how quickly it has been put together. We did consider postponing the parent forum to be able to incorporate any remote learning queries but felt it better to continue with date in diary

LW: agreed was good for the forum to be happening but would also like to encourage/continue to receive feedback over Spring 1 as the school are to make tweaks and/or improvements. It was agreed that through class reps that feedback could be channelled and then forward to the school.

ACTION: FOSIS TO COMMUNICATE OUT WITH MINUTES TO REQUEST FEEDBACK BE GIVEN TO CLASS REPS THAT WILL BE PASSED TO THE SCHOOL SOONER THAN THE NEXT PARENT/CARER FORUM DURING SPRING 1 TERM

GD: added general feeling has been really good/positive so thank you

2. Covid-19 related (or relating to changes due to Covid-19)

2.1 What is the justification for keeping the children at home when it is a case of staff illness? Is it not standard practice to cover this with existing staff or a professional cover teacher? Online learning is not a substitute for year R children and if schools are to stay open, I can't see why this situation should be handled differently to normal staff illness. I am glad though that Miss Dunne is not under pressure to return to work before she is ready.

LW: Yes it is standard practice is to cover but COVID has meant an exception to this. It is a unique situation and decision was not taken lightly to close bubble.

2.2 Would it be possible for year 2's to have access to TT Rockstars (or Doodle Maths) now? Opposed to the summer term as would be a great tool to have at home to support

LW: Happy to look at for spring 2, is for rapid recall so may not suit all if not reached this stage of learning. There is also a fair bit of admin required in the set up.

2.3 Are the school able to support with printing documents for those remote learning or without unlimited internet?

LW: Yes school are able to support, the first call received from school was to understand what support might be needed in this area and arrangements have been made for those that need it. Please feel free to speak to the teacher at weekly call or contact the office if you need anything.

2.4 Is teaching of the curriculum continuing this time? (last time it was paused and the work was consolidation rather than new learning).

HLS: It is consolidation to begin with, but we will introduce new concepts (such as telling the time) as we move through the term. We will look to increase provision, adapt, review etc on an ongoing basis. Feedback is instrumental and gratefully received to help

2.5 Reps are keen to reach those parents that aren't on FB, if reps happy to, is the school happy to share emails/link to WhatsApp group to promote inclusion for those not on facebook?

LW: Yes, can be added to weekly communication.

ACTION: FOSIS TO SPEAK TO REPS AND ADD TO WEEKLY COMMUNICATION

3. Reading

3.1 How often does an adult read with each child at school?

HLS: In “normal times”, children read every day in different scenarios – phonics, guided reading, English lessons and more. They read to an adult 121 once or twice per half term. We noted the feedback from last year that parents felt unsure of how child is progressing so are going to offer online reading for children to read to teacher/ta from school.

JJ: We have been setting up a video call with grandparents to do remote reading which has worked really well

3.2 Some are reporting problems with log into rising stars - there may be capacity issues that need to be considered by the school. I believe we had an update MM to say that it had been reported to provider – is there any further update on this?

HLS – Update from Rising Stars was that there was a complication with a surge in usage. It is understood to be improved so please continue to report any further issues and we'll continue.

4. Lunches

4.1 A lot of excitement about the new menu, thank you for bringing in different options. Grab n go did not go down very well with my kids.

LW: It seems to be going down well with children in school who really like their individual trays

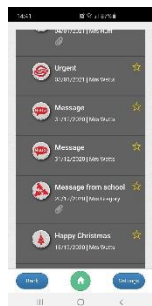
4.2 On the new hot lunches menu is there also a vegetable included in the main meal? It isn't mentioned on the menu so as it reads it looks quite unhealthy, although it may actually be being provided. I feel that there should be a vegetable included. Please can we have some clarification?

LW: Yes there is a veg included everyday, the menu was put together on a short turnaround so menu/marketing detail was not elaborated.

5. Communication

5.1 I've had a few parents mentioning about finding previous communication on Marvellousme. The suggestion was that instead of using 'urgent' or 'message' for most communication if the title can be more descriptive which would make it easier to find relevant previous communication eg '12pm meeting details', 'youtube videos' and so on. Appreciate time is limited but think will hopefully not add to workload.

Addition comment received on this; can staff try to use meaningful headings for messages in MM as it makes it so much easier to go back and find things....



LW: feedback noted and the school will make a conscious effort to label the subject more clearly. There is a new communication tool coming which will then allow Marvelous Me to return to its true and target purpose of provided curriculum and updates on what the children have been doing in school.

5.3 Some parents felt the MM message re critical workers on Thursday last week felt a little harsh.

LW: In no way was the communication meant to come across as harsh or unkind, and apologies if this was how it was received. The school (and all of us) are under pressures and particularly in that first week we had to be sure that the guidance was clearly communicated. As a school, we were trying to make arrangements for home schooling provision and also providing schooling to those in school which is c40%. We have a duty of care to the children and also our staff.

Non agenda questions (as we had a little spare time!)

Parents are able to submit more than one piece of work, it won't always be possible for teacher to comment on what hasn't been requested to be submitted but is fine to submit.

If parent misses weekly catch up call, the teacher will try again, please mention the teacher if there is a particularly good time to call (or avoid) and they will do their best to accommodate moving forward.