

Parent Forum 26/1/22

EYFS

**Will the end of day times be changing any time soon as some parents are concerned about the lost learning time for reception students in comparison to other schools?**

No learning is lost as the children are coming into school earlier and having a shorter lunch break.  
Pre-covid 8:45am-3:00pm with an hour lunch = 5 hours and 15 minutes (not including lunch)  
Now: 8:30am-2:30pm with 45 minutes for lunch. 5 hours and 15 minutes (not including lunch)

It was agreed that we would set up a working party within the Parent Forum to discuss and agree times, moving forward as, hopefully, things improve with the pandemic.

**This question is about a lollipop pop man helping people near Poverest Road - Forest Way cross. Last year there was a man who helped children and parents to cross Poverest Road, but this year nobody has seen him. There is an unregulated crossing close to it, but most families are still crossing the street where that man was before. Is there something we could do to have help on this road again?**

This is the responsibility of a private company who we pay their services for. They should provide us with a replacement but I believe they struggle to get people to do the role. Yes he was there in the Autumn Term and he will hopefully be back after February half term.

**Is it possible to have more sports clubs or musical instrument learning after school? There is only football and gymnastics at the moment and we would love to send our kids to other activities.**

After Easter more clubs will happen. In the Autumn Term Mr Duffin had to cancel a Reception sports club due to limited uptake. However now 28 children attend football, gymnastics, multi sports and dodgeball every week.

**Could we please have the weekly menus**

This is on the school website - the EYFS staff have offered to share it on the class dojo story when the menu changes.

**Can we also have an idea of the school day structure - eg they come in and do this, then they do that, then sit down to have lunch etc**

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:30-8:50	Early Morning Work - name/handwriting and writing sentences				
8:50-9:20	Phonics: The children split into 6 smaller phonics groups				
9:20-11:30	English/Topic & reading Free Flow	music/P.E	English Free Flow	Maths Free Flow	Homework sharing & topic
11:30-12:15	Lunch time. 30 minutes to eat lunch in the canteen and 15 mins to play in the garden				
12:15-12:45	Maths: The children split into 6 smaller maths groups				assembly
12:15-2:00	PSHE Free Flow	Topic Free Flow	Topic Free Flow	creative Free Flow	reading Free Flow
2:00-2:30	Tidy up, stories/songs, giving out dojo points for completing daily challenges and homework.				

**Free Flow:** The children are set writing, maths, topic, phonics and creative challenges which they are expected to complete independently whilst the staff are working 1:1 with children or in small groups. These change every day and are modelled by the staff so that the children know what to do. The children can also choose to go outside in the garden to complete the activities that the staff have set up for them which is why there isn't any playtimes. As the children get ready for lunch they share the

challenges that they have completed in the morning which helps the staff to monitor what the children have done and still need to do.

- There is not a snack time as the children can help themselves to drinks/fruit throughout the day.

### **Will there be the opportunity to go in and watch phonics classes again on a Friday as done previously**

The EYFS team will strive to send even more photos on the class story so that you can see what is happening in each of the phonics groups. They will also add it to the weekly homework. Once the pandemic, we would very much welcome parents back into the classroom as before.

### **Holly (year 1)**

#### **Food menu - menu seems the same every week and some meals and puddings are of questionable nutritional value. Can the menu rotate on a 4 weekly cycle like many nurseries manage? And with more healthy fruit and vegetables?**

There is a three week rolling programme that changes each week. There is fruit and vegetables/salad every day and every child has to have a little, which they are encouraged to eat. Dieticians plan the puddings and send out the recipes to follow due to allergen etc and they don't use chocolate, it's chocolate in its rawest form. Pictures have to be sent to the company every day to show that the food is up to standard.

#### **Washing hands and visiting the toilet before lunch (and being prompted to do so at least one other time during the day) is a basic and fundamental thing to get right (especially with covid). But this doesn't always happen. Please can this be enforced as an absolute must?**

It definitely always happens and an adult always takes them.

#### **End of day time. Lots of requests to consider reverting to 3pm (ish) collection time. Lots of comparisons with other school timings and concerns about the difficulty juggling the early pick up with work schedules and timings for collecting other children. Also concerns about the learning time lost for the children.**

There is no set teaching/learning time for primary aged children. It is up to the school to decide. Most schools however go for around 5 hours per day and 25 hours per week. This is teaching/learning time and does not include breaks and lunchtimes. Our school day starts earlier and we only have 45 minutes for lunch rather than an hour. We have found this reduces any conflict which generally used to occur in the last 15 minutes and most of the children prefer it.

In our school we have

R= 5hrs 15 minutes

1 = 5hrs 20 mins

2 = 5hrs 20 mins

3 to 6 = 5hrs 30 minutes

Despite our changes to the school times to allow for a more staggered drop-off and pick up no learning time has been lost, if anything we are way above the 5hrs per day.

Staff have found the earlier start to be much better for the children as the children are generally more receptive to learning in the mornings. As with anything some parents prefer the earlier drop-off and pickup (8:30 to 3 approximately) whereas others would prefer 9 to 3:30.

**Better communication on how to support their learning would be helpful, eg key things they are learning that half term and how to help explain. Also setting out the basics for how to access new web based learning tools (they're not always self explanatory).**

On Class Dojo, their class story shows what the children are learning. On the website there is the curriculum letter. **If you can let us know which web based learning tools are an issue we can create some user guides to share with parents?**

Cedar (year 2)

**When do the school intend to go back to normal start and finishing times?**

**8.45, 8.50 am – EYFS 3pm, Year 1 3.10pm and Year 2 3.15pm and Juniors 3.20pm**

The school intends to review start and finish times when the pandemic is over. We will need to consider who starts and finishes when because we now have nearly 430 children all using the same narrow road to go home.

Despite our changes to the school times to allow for a more staggered drop-off and pick up no learning time has been lost, if anything we are way above the 5hrs per day. Staff have found the earlier start to be much better for the children as the children are generally more receptive to learning in the mornings.

**Could we fundraise for a secure barrier at the end of the road? Its a shame teaching resources are being used for road marshals instead of in the classroom**

We are hoping to get more road markings which will help with parking. We have asked for volunteers for the barrier but unfortunately this hasn't been sustained and so we have had to ask staff to help on a rota. We have been in contact with Road safety through our Local Authority and have asked for yellow lines on the surrounding roads. We also asked for CCTV which they said was too expensive. We have asked for the lines to be done as soon as possible but the LA said it takes a long time due to procedures.

**How long do the school intend to operate in school bubbles for? My child tells me there are no school assemblies. This is a shame. School assemblies are such an important and inspiring aspect of school. Looking up to older years as inspiration when they are presented with awards. Stories and life lessons heard from different teachers. Is there a way this could happen in a ventilated hall even for shorter durations.**

Bubbles have enabled us to keep transmission of the virus to a minimum but we hope to stop these as soon as numbers reduce nationally.

Virtual assemblies happen every week where the children receive awards and certificates, these are in Key Stages. Virtual whole school assemblies happen for key events/ special days. This also means that the hall can be used for P.E all day and time isn't wasted walking to/from the hall.

**Would the school consider running school houses in the school not just for sports day. This will bring school together across all years. Healthy competition and promoting teamwork, aspiration for individuals and as a team.**

All children are in school houses and they are used for lots of different things

**When will you get computers back? So children can go back to having computer lessons. Is the computer room still being used for lunch?**

The children have always had their computing lessons. These have just been in the classroom using ipads or chromebooks. The suite has now been re-stocked and they were all plugged in last week. The children will continue with their computing lessons and depending on the learning task they will either use chromebooks, ipads or the PCs in the suite.

**Can desk side assessments be carried out for the children? They frequently have the use of chrome books but they are not eye level to the screen which is and will start to effect their posture. Why can't they go back to using the computer room? Is it still being used as a lunch hall? If so how long will this be for in light of the latest guidelines?**

See above. Good idea on looking at the screen level. Children however, do not work consistently at the computers. Activities are often in smaller slots of time 5/10/15 minutes mainly.

**My child keeps losing his pencil and eraser 2-3 times a week and honestly I have no idea if he genuinely forgets it. It was much better when schools used to provide stationary pre Covid. Are there any plans to put this back in place at all?**

This is available and the children keep anything they take

**Pantomime trip – Can we have an option of refund please?**

We received a credit for this. Year 6 are going to another show before they leave and the rest of the school are going at the end of this year. The theatre are honoring the prices, including the ice cream.

**Our class were due to have a summer show at the end of year 1, a beach day which we paid for. We were told this would be rescheduled but haven't heard. Can we get a refund for this as well?**  
Punch and Judy show - This is due to be reorganised for this class for Summer 2022 as they missed out last year.

**Can we have variety of activities for extra curricular clubs, lunchtime and after school  
At the moment only sports are available.**

**Some ideas:**

**Drama**

**Acrobatic Arts**

**Nature school**

**Arts or Arts and crafts**

**Music**

**Choir**

**Lego**

**chess/board games**

**Martial arts**

**homework club say on a Monday after school**

Due to bubbles and staff numbers we haven't run clubs. We do however fully understand the impact clubs both sporting and non-sporting clubs have on academic achievement. We have increased the clubs slowly and we are exploring ways of re-introducing more of the clubs we used to run in the summer term. All the clubs were being run as suggested above apart from Acrobatic Arts.

**Can we as a school take part in Pudsey day for the next Children in Need**

no, our charity for this year is raising funds for a guide dog.

**I don't know how the homework on the tablets work, when my children are stuck I can't really help them. I don't think we were ever shown how it all works, can the school help with this please. A number of parents said they will find a zoom training session helpful**

Another good idea. Pre - covid we did hold parent workshops on Mathletics, Spelling Shed etc. We will organise Google Meets on these moving forward.

**Will our class get the opportunity to do Forest School this academic year?**

Mr Duffin is close to completing the required training (Jan 22)

**Some of other schools in the area regularly incorporate outdoor learning in their curriculum. Is this something we can encourage and include in ours?**

Yes we do see class dojo for the photos. With the pandemic we have positively encouraged this to keep learning outside.

**Did the school receive any Covid Education Recovery 'catch up' funding from the government? If we did, how is it being used?**

The school does and this is used to pay for retired teachers who have come in to give additional support to those children who have been identified as needing it. We have one for every year group

**Will the seating arrangements in the class revert back to sitting in small groups/squares rather than rows?**

The children are back to normal

**A parent has raised an issue of their child's feeling not been validated:**

**When my child tells a member of the teaching staff that she has a tummy ache or if she disagrees with anything, I am told her feelings are often not validated, instead she is told, "oh you're ok"**

We do take children's feelings into consideration and should the child show medical issues or appears unwell, we immediately contact the families.

**How are dietary requirements managed by the dinner staff to ensure my child is not given meat because we are vegetarian, or that he cannot have certain foods?**

The cook, serving staff, lead MDS, school office, class teachers and PTPs are aware of all dietary requirements. The teaching staff make sure that the children don't order anything that they shouldn't have, the school office collates the number of meals and shares this with the cook where dietary requirements are checked. Before each child collects their meal this is checked again by the lead MDS. The cook has a photographic list of every child in the school with dietary requirements and she is the person who serves the children their main meal.

Beech (year 3)

**Can parents come in and go through the Lost Property yet? Quite a few have lost new jumpers and can't find them. Can each class have their own box (they are labelled)**

Parents have been able to pop in to go through this all the time. Friends of Poverest spoke at this point and explained that they have spent hours going through this and returning

anything named to the child. They have advertised lost clothing and washed anything unclaimed to sell at a later date.

Fir (Year 4)

**Can the school please look into sorting out the bike shed so the kids can leave their bikes and scooters in an orderly manner ? During busy times there isn't enough space to park the scooters so they end up being all piled on top of each other.**

We have scooter storage racks in the playground which aren't used very much. As you come through the gate turn left and they are in the corner. Please use those from now on which will more space. The bike rack is now by the year 6 door. This was done so parents could shelter in the blue bike shed when it rains.

**Are the new drop off / pick up times now permanent and how do they compare to the pre-pandemic times ? If not , when will the school look into reviewing them ?**

Despite our changes to the school times to allow for a more staggered drop-off and pick up no learning time has been lost, if anything we are way above the 5hrs per day. Staff have found the earlier start to be much better for the children as the children are generally more receptive to learning in the mornings. A parent questionnaire will be sent out as part of a review.

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**When might the school restart the school run clubs? Such as homework club, Minecraft, cross country, lego, chess and cross country to name a few of those that were previously run.**

Science club is up and running. We will be planning a new programme from after Easter.

**School menu - will there be any improvement in the future? More variety is needed as there is a lot of repetition. More nutritional food would be great.**

**Parent Pay - Can school lunch payments be added to Parent Pay? There is a lunchtime meal activity on there but it is not accessible for payments. It is mostly chaotic in the mornings around the school office, lots of parents handing in forms for various things. When handing over cash for the school lunches receipts are not issued. Can receipts be issued when handing cash over to the office in the interim?**

We do not use ParentPay for payment of school dinners as this would put an extra burden on the teachers. They would have to do the normal attendance register and then log into ParentPay to do the lunch register. The current system we have picks up errors easily as we get a warning if the teacher puts in a lunch when the child is not there and viceversa if the child is there but they have not put a lunch in. *Most parents pay for the half term so this*

*means coming to the office once per half term. Luckily most parents are happy to do this. If a parent specifically requests a receipt for a large amount of dinner money this can be given.*

**School street - Can anything else be done regarding road safety? Cameras, barriers, road patrons.** Question answered above

Late question emailed to me so wasn't shared last night.

**“how pupils are monitored with regards to the statutory framework requirements and if there is any chance providing more information about the reward system, I can see kids getting certificates, readers of the week etc, it is just not clear what the success criteria for the rewards.”**

We assess against the statutory framework every term depending on which year groups. EYFS against the Early Learning Goals, Year 1 against the phonic check, Year 2 against the Year 2 SATS, Year 4 against the Multiplication Check and Year 6 against Year 6 SATS. We also assess using Fischer Family Trust each term to see where the children are against their expected standard for their age. There is a lot more about assessment and I'll arrange for this to be shared at a future Parent Forum.

The criteria varies for awards, Fantastic Reader of the Week Head Teacher Award I award for the child who's made the greatest effort to improve their reading, they receive a book for their prize and I do a year group a week, others are for the amount of reading, passing quizzes and so we go on. We do prizes for achieving Dojo points at the end of each term and the children are awarded prizes of pencils, rubbers, drink bottles and more. At the end of the year children are awarded trophies so take a look at the trophy cabinet when you get in school next time, it's outside my office.

Lolly pop man said he is due back on the 2nd.

Thank you for your time last night class reps, it's much appreciated.

Mrs. Weeks