**PARENT FORUM**

**Wednesday, 7th December 6-7 pm**

**Agenda:**

**Parent Questions**

**School Street – what do we do next?**

**Planning for the School Year**

**Willow Class**

***Are there any other options for getting the kids through in the morning, it often makes my daughter late if we are not right at the front of the queue? When the small reception area is full of prams, children, and parents it’s rather crazy and a race for the line!***

Teachers have been trailing a new system which I think people have found causes less congestion?

**Birch Class**

**Could the school consider there being an option for school dinners to be paid for on parentpay? A lot of people do not have cash available to them all the time and having this on parent pay would make things a lot easier.**

We think getting us to be a cashless school is a great idea. We are looking into this. We will probably need to get parent pay in to discuss in more detail. The cost to the school for parents paying via Parent Pay is 1.53%. So to cover this cost we may have to charge the parents more for dinners if they wish to pay this way so the school does not lose money.

**People are complaining about paying for a club, then having to pay full price for them to then go to after school club for the rest of the time before parent pick up.**

The after school club is based on places so we have to have the adults who are paid to look after the children. This is what covers that plus the food, etc. There are only a couple of clubs that have to be paid for and these are charged at a reduced rate as we subsidise to enable this. We provide 30 clubs that are completely free and only one which is charged for the licence. The other two clubs are to pay for the outside providers so I’m sorry that people feel they should complain when we try our hardest to keep everything to a minimum or free!

**Another one is kids being penalised for being ill with the 100% attendance thing. I get why it's done, to encourage parents to send in their kids as much as possible, but some parents are concerned that if a child is genuinely ill, they get penalised for not going in.**

There is a weekly prize for a child who has been in 100%, 6 opportunities to get a 100% prize, one for each half term and then prizes for each term and finally the 100% badge for the whole year. We do not include medical appointments as absence.

**If the school did get into a position where there were a lot of cases of Strep A/scarlet fever would we have the right to keep our children off until it clears up?**

I'm going to a meeting for HTs tomorrow so will be advised then and share with you.

**Perhaps we could also cover how we can improve communications on the events and opportunities the school offers as there are some things (like music lessons) that aren’t well known. With music lessons it’s a case of raising awareness of this being an opportunity.**

We send out details on Dojo about music lessons and recently had a recital with a woodwind teacher to encourage children to think about learning other instruments. There are always forms for music lessons in the office that parents can collect and fill in their preference.

**With other things it’s more a case of either short notice of things, which can be tricky to manage around work or other things going on. Or sometimes an issue of lack of explanation. Here are some examples which can hopefully set some context.**

**- nativity times and what would be needed for outfits**

**- sports day arrangements - when and what happens at the end of the day regarding dismissing the children**

**- notice of Christmas jumper day**

**- jolly jars - what are they and what it’s for**

Nativities were planned along time ago but times and outfits can be tricky as things do have to be moved around unexpectedly and the children’s parts may change because of child who is away ill, etc. Staff spend alot of time washing, ironing and preparing many costumes to save parents time and money.

Sports Day arrangements are planned in September but obviously may need to change as they did last year due to weather.

Christmas Jumper Day it isn’t, FoP just thought it would be nice if the children wanted to wear something with Christmas associated colours or a Christmas jumper to meet Father Christmas which most of them are.

Jolly jars were advertised on Dojo several times and posters were put on the gates for parents to see examples and read an explanation.

**Fig Class**

1**) Panto class trip planned for 14th - same day as train strike. Is there an alternative plan? Can they get the bus instead as this is one of the classes that missed out last year as well?**

this is the case now and we are leaving earlier to get buses

**Beech**

**The main issue from our class, apart from the road of course, was regarding letters going home with the kids for activities like parties, clubs, events, etc... which sometimes get lost, either to to from school, plus have to be printed out hundreds of times in order to send home. We were wondering if there could be an electronic version to fill in, like with the surveys? I am not sure if it is more admin for the school’s side, plus you will probably still get complaints from parents that they didn't see the form…**

The parents need to give permission for the many non-payment trips, clubs, activities that take place. Anything paid for on ParentPay I set up the payment item to ask parents to give their permission so paid trips aren't a problem.

The admin email would be completely clogged if we asked parents to send their permissions there.

If we decide to ask parents to fill out Google forms then we need to work out a standardised procedure to do this. For example, would every teacher be in charge of setting up their own forms, etc.

**Thoughts re. School Street**

"Concern was widely expressed regarding road safety issues and the obstructive and unsupportive attitude of Bromley Council.

For example, the School Street, where signs were not adjusted as requested before the summer holidays, and then the school was criticised for not keeping to the incorrect timings of the existing signs, which were then covered by black plastic rubbish sacks, as the street was suspended without due consideration for road safety implications.

Also, the temporary (time-wise), dangerous and polluting congestion issue at the Tillingbourne Green / Lee Green junction, where public money has been wasted, with the problem left unresolved, and the council now refusing to enter into any constructive communication. There is a question of a lack of integrity here, with sensible suggestions ignored, and the refusal to act apparently based on a single officer visit outside the key congestion time, when there is, of course, no issue at all".

\*Publicise the access to childcare for parents who volunteer to man the barrier.

\*During the planning stages for the school extension was there any concern for road safety or any additional requirements as the number of pupils grew? I appreciate if there was anything then it would generally require funding from the school but just running things through my mind. Maybe there is something that could be put back onto the Council??

\*Adjust the times on the signage to something more relevant to the school run times however I wouldn't reduce it to just the 15/30 mins the barrier is in place. A longer time makes more of a statement of access being restricted.

\*My understanding is that the barrier simply needs to be manned for the scheme to proceed.

Reps said the road has definitely become more dangerous again!

Actions:

Ask for Christmas jumpers that are too small

Would Dojo have a search facility?

could our school website calendar be synced with phone calendars

Families to be told they are able to have a school packed lunch if going on a trip

Road Actions:

It was suggested that a petition outlining the two major road safety issues be created, and then be made available for parents to sign prior to the end of term Christmas events, when many parents tend to visit the school

Tiddilywinks to be asked to remind new parents to drive slowly up Tillingbourne Green

Reps to email Sally with reasons why we should keep the road closed

Sally to compile the list and return to reps so they can share these points with their parents

Letters to be sent to councillors

Children to write to the Council re. Street closure

Consider attending a council meeting to ask what can be done to make the road safe

Each rep. to ask their parents to send a letter about the street closure

One class rep’s husband works for Greenwich Council and he is going to get some advice from them about what they have found works well in their borough e.g. electronic posts that come up and down at closure times

**Planning the School Year: Sally shared what she has to consider with SLT for the Year, when and how**

Budget

Staffing starts at Easter or earlier

Assessments - national ones and internal ones

Events for the Year to make it fun and interesting for the children/families

Analysis of data - identifying areas to be improved

Governor meetings

School Development Plan

Self-Evaluation Framework

Monitoring

Staff Training

Date of Next meeting to be confirmed: 1st February 2023?