



Minutes for Parent Forum – Tuesday, 7th November 2023

Present:

Haylea Elsey (Cedar)

Claire Roberts (Elm and Holly)

Tommy Roberts (Fir)

Kylie Wood (Elder)

Julia Lester (Walnut)

Dave Carter (Birch and Olive)

Michael Parker (Governor)

Paul Haylock (Headteacher)

Ben Scott (Chestnut)

Sabera Bham (Hazel)

Apologies:

Ragnav Kapoor (Holly)

Yesim Gok Koch (Chestnut)

Jemma Fairbrass (Willow)

Roxanne Hughes (Willow)

Agenda:

Questions from Parents

As a chestnut class parents we're all bit concerned about what's happening with the class' teachers at the moment. So, what the plan is for the class in terms of who their teachers will be for the rest of the year? We still not informed well about Fridays Teacher and Mrs Mantle will be on ML and we don't know the when she is going to leave the class and who will be cover her ML. As a whole class we would be appreciated if Mr Haylock informed us about our concerns.

We have a plan but we can not confirm. I did email about Fridays once we knew. Mrs Mantle is not sure when she will leave on ML. I currently expect that Mrs King will teach on Mondays and Tuesdays with Mrs Inwood teaching Wednesday to Friday. But that could change. I feel it is important for parents to know how difficult it is to employ teachers in this area. The wages simply are not enough to live in this area. We lose teachers to Inner London and many qualified teachers move into Kent to live and then work there as well.

Parent forum - could you please mention 'safe searches' on the internet. There was an incident a few weeks back where someone in class was able to search an inappropriate word on the chrome books they use in class. (child) came home and was able to tell me in depth what it meant, and it was sexual. Mrs Williams dealt with it amazingly and said she would ask the IT team to 'block that search word' but I'm concerned about other words and phrases. I want to know there is a good safety system/block in place for this kind of thing.



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I will go into detail on this later in the meeting about our filtering and monitoring system. We use LGFL and they do the initial blocking for all LGFL schools across the country. We can then put extra blocks on the system (normally games websites!) We cannot overblock though and in the incident referred to in the question it involved two numbers and we cannot block all websites which include those numbers. Teaching children to report incidents is the approach as this is what they will experience at home.

I struggle with the first few weeks of term because of the after school clubs. It would be really good to be able to sign up at the end of the previous term so you know you've got a space. For those of us that have 2 working parents and rely on the clubs it's really difficult to plan work not knowing if you've got a place in the clubs for the next term.

Then you don't usually find out till part way through the week there isn't often a joined up approach to the clubs this term I've not seen a complete list of all the clubs just loads of different dojos from different groups.

I've had to change my working pattern twice last year with barely a week notice because of not getting places in clubs ect. I know there is always after school club but that's really expensive if you have to use it several times a week.

It would be really helpful to get the clubs list the last week of term with the ability to sign up for spaces then and know you have a place then if you don't get a space at least we have time to sort out alternatives.

There is a complete list of clubs and this is emailed to parents and is on the website. I can assure you we are doing our best regarding clubs. Every teacher runs a free club - they do not have to do this and is a remarkable amount of generosity from the staff. Other paid for clubs have minimum numbers often and that can be at financial cost to the school

Arranging clubs at the end of the term before the next is something we can try to do, especially for Spring and Summer. Autumn will not be possible - changes to staff/timetabling etc (Teachers choose clubs on days of less marking/planning)

Each teacher manages their own clubs. In an ideal world one member of staff could do this but we do not have the capacity to make this part of someone's job description.

One further question from multiple parents in Elder class (child) has said on a few occasions to me that the portions of school lunches are too small and being served up cold.

Can the portion sizes for years 5+ be looked at. Everyday my child comes home and says they don't eat enough and are constantly hungry.

I had a meeting with Harrisons this morning and portion sizes were discussed. Government guidelines state 56g of Protein, 85g of carbs, 28g of vegetables. Harrisons actually prepare 70g of protein per meal, plus daily bread option and as much salad as the children would like. Harrisons speak of the complete meal and the children sometimes not choosing all the options. However years 5 and 6 will be offered seconds if they are available every day. I eat the school meal every day. I am the last to be served. The food isn't cold when it is served but once placed onto a cold plastic tray it soon loses its heat.

Can make to help improve the communication between school and home.



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I believe that we have excellent communication between home and school. If someone can find me a school that does it better please let me know. We email all letters home. We have a school diary on the website which you can download to your calendar. We have class dojo and now include event reminders on there. You also have a direct link to your class teacher and headteacher who has these on alert 24 hours a day. We have a phone line for emergencies. Your teachers are teaching your children and are not meant to be replying to messages during the day. They will respond within 48 hours on working days.

Can we have a weekly timetable to say what topics are being covered so that we can support learning at home?

You won't get weekly timetables but there is the meeting at the beginning of the year, termly curriculum letters which are on the class pages and the overview of the whole 7 years is on the website under the curriculum page for every subject.

Can we request a timetable with all afterschool clubs in 1 document before the holidays. At the moment we receive them very late, after the term starts and everything is very confusing, because messages are sent separately. We'd appreciate if they are sent before we break up for the holidays.

We will try to do this for the Spring and Summer terms. Autumn is much harder as many outside clubs do not offer until September and our staff are in a similar position.

Not always consistent with booking info, my child has messed out several times on clubs.

All class teacher clubs can have a place booked via dojo. Message the class teacher running the club. It reduces on paper and children returning slips etc. Clubs run by outside agencies will all have their own procedures. We do not have a mass booking system - another thing to have in the future if funding increases!

We are very lucky to have so many clubs, thank you. Can we bring back musical theatre for ks1, my son absolutely loved it?

The staff who run that club are running a phonics club this term. They love musical theatre and it will be back but the extra time supporting our younger children to learn the basics of reading is taking priority - their choice but I support their passion to ensure good early reading.

Ofsted Parent Questionnaire

- We are now in the Ofsted window and could be called at any time
- Parents will be given one evening to complete the questionnaire
- Ofsted do look at the uptake of completed questionnaires as a measure of parental engagement with learning
- Please encourage all your parents to complete the questionnaire when it arrives
- Parent views on the school are taken into account
- <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

Safeguarding - including Filtering and Monitoring

- Safeguarding is the number one priority in school
- Safeguard is the online platform we use for recording concerns
- Email system of notification but we do allow 1-1 conversation as well
- 5 DSLs in school (Mr Haylock, Mrs Wilson, Mrs Mills, Mrs Arnold and Mrs Boorman)
- All concerns are actioned before we leave at the end of the day
- Direct links to Bromley social workers and the LADO (local area designated officer)
- Filtering and monitoring has always been present but is now part of KCSIE (Keeping Children Safe in Education) 2023
- Filtering is whether a website is allowed or not allowed. We use Webscreen but this is changing to school protect. Monitoring is what our users do and includes apps. Visual

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monitoring is what we use in class in addition to weekly searches of what the users have been doing. You can get very efficient monitoring systems that automatically alert a manager to every word they type but they are far beyond the budget of a primary school.

- Over blocking. Important to allow functionality and resemble something they will find at home. Important they know how and whom to report issues. Most homes have no internet filtering.
- Demonstration of the web filtering checking.

Homework

- As a staff we suggest that the menu option for homework would be the best way to go. This gives a selection of tasks to be completed over the term. These would be non-computer based tasks (models, writing ect) Children can choose how many they complete. The Spellings, reading, mathematics and timetables will continue weekly and be computer based - the quick ability to assess progress and ensure children are given the next steps without putting pressure on workload are the reasons why.

The parent group thinks...

- Diverse homework activities, it's samey and repetitive.
- Include imaginative, outdoor, problem solving. EG, go for a walk and look at the numbers on the doors to learn about odd and even numbers.
- Reasoning activities for KS2
- Reading daily
- More activities to choose from and complete per half term rather than weekly repetitive exercises.
- Get awards silver, gold and bronze at end of half term
- Menu idea is good, less activities for younger children
- Not too many models to make