

Notes from Parents' Forum

17th September 2018

Year 6 fundraising

The leavers' gifts at the end of Year 6 were discussed. It was noted that the Yearbooks are an annual tradition, but the hoodies have only been produced twice and aren't a necessity. It was explained that Year 6 cake sale money goes towards the leavers' gifts, and that a second fundraiser could be arranged in the summer term if needed. It was discussed that, where possible, the yearbooks are often organised by a parent in the class who has some experience and aren't automatically the responsibility of the class reps.

Questionnaire about Parent workshops

Parents wondered whether sending a questionnaire to parents about support needed for parenting and curriculum training for the current year. Other parents requested maths, handwriting and spelling support. Mrs Griffiths will request further suggestions in the next newsletter.

Newman Fund Spending

Parents asked whether the Newman Fund had been well supported. Mrs Griffiths explained that spending of the Newman Fund would be reported from the end of the financial year 2019, and has been used so far for classroom resources, PE spending and St Luke's hire.

Primary Maths Challenge

A parent had heard of the 'Primary Maths Challenge' and wondered whether this was something which could be introduced at Oratory. After looking in to it, it was decided that it was not inclusive enough to be administered as a competition across entire classes, but the teacher's would use the questions as part of their extension teaching.

Parents' Evening

It was requested that sign-up sheets are announced in the newsletter before they are put on the board so that working parents are able to arrange to sign up for an appointment. This was agreed.

Fonts

The use of different fonts in homework was raised. Mrs Griffiths has since checked that the fonts used are appropriate.

Homework

Some parents discussed how they might be able to help if their children were finding homework tricky. Mrs Griffiths directed parents to the homework policy on the website and asked the teachers to send home helpful resources such as 100 squares.

Clubs

Again, the issue of whether the school could offer more clubs was raised. As before, Mrs Griffiths explained that the school had a policy which restricted the use of rooms for clubs afterschool so that each classroom is used one evening a week only. This enables the teachers to complete assessment, planning, and preparation for lessons the following day with minimal disruption. The school currently has a range of clubs on offer, and although more clubs would be welcomed, it ought to be recognised that the core purpose of the school is to provide quality first teaching.

Coding club was no longer offered by the local university, and Mrs Griffiths will look into an alternative provider.

Lunchtime

Again, the issue of longer lunchtimes was raised. As before, Mrs Griffiths explained the arrangements for lunchtime, and that each class gets 25 minutes to eat their food, before crossing the road to St Luke's for playtime. Although lunchtime is a social occasion, the younger classes are asked to eat in silence for the first 10 minutes in order to

concentrate on eating their lunch first. In her experience, the children who do not finish their lunch are unlikely to do so with more time given.

Young Enterprise

A young enterprise scheme has been recommended. Mrs Griffiths will research this and discuss with staff.

Reception gradual start

Parents gave positive feedback to the change in the Reception induction this year, and appreciated the shorter days while children were settling.

Uniform shop drop off

Parents wondered whether Sogans could drop off items of uniform at school which parents could collect. Mrs Griffiths was unsure, but felt that there could be pitfalls involved with this, since the school would have to find a place to store deliveries and the time of staff would be taken away from current duties to manage this service.