

Notes from Parents' Forum

27th September 2019

Coffee morning

Some parents requested that parent coffee mornings be held weekly. Mrs Griffiths said that due to the multi-use nature of the school hall, this was not possible without having negative effect on the delivery of the curriculum. Also, coffee mornings took a lot of time and effort for PA reps to organise. Any parent can arrange an impromptu coffee morning outside of school, and this is the case in a number of classes already.

Fundraising

Parents asked for clarification of the different fundraising accounts that the school has. This information will be published in the newsletter before half term.

A cinema session was suggested as a way of making money. This sounds like a good suggestion, but further information needs to be gathered regarding licensing, health and safety and supervision of the children on the premises.

Newsletter

A parent raised the issue of the newsletter being displayed outside school and asked whether this compromised the safety of the children. Mrs Griffiths explained that the newsletter never includes any child's name and photograph together, nor does it detail trips in advance. The newsletter is already on the school website.

Clubs

Again, the issue of whether the school could offer more clubs was raised, and ideas put forward for other clubs. 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.

Some parents of children in younger classes wanted more clubs available for their children. Mrs Griffiths explained that there are already 7 different clubs open to KS1 children and that children of such a young age must be given time to rest and play after a long day at school. Reception Class children are rarely able to cope with a longer day. There are numerous options for clubs and classes in the local community that parents can access if they so wish.

The finish time and days of clubs were discussed, and Mrs Griffiths reminded parents that clubs were provided for enrichment opportunities, and were not organised for child care. Finish times needed to be in keeping with the purpose of each club.

The club timetable will be on the school website as soon as club leaders have finalised the arrangements.

Pick up

The issue of congestion in the hall at the end of the day, and asked whether classes having different finish times would ease the overcrowding, or whether some classes could leave through the hall and others through the playground.

Mrs Griffiths agreed that the hall does get very busy at the end of the day, but pointed out that different finishing times/pick up locations for the younger and older classes would be unlikely to solve the problem, since many carers and children would end up waiting in the hall for older siblings to finish.

Mrs Griffiths agreed to use the newsletter to remind parents of ways they can help. For example by using the anticlockwise system, leaving prams and scooters outside where possible, and leaving the hall swiftly, talking to other parents outside rather than in the hall.

Ratios on school trips

Parents asked whether there is a certain number of parent helpers required for school trips. Mrs Griffiths said that there were strict ratios in place to supervise children on trips. Staff always complete risk assessments before taking children off site.

Cold weather

Parents asked whether teachers could remind children to put on scarves and hats before school trips in the winter. Mrs Griffiths explained that sometimes caps and berets are left behind so they don't get lost on the bus or tube, but teachers will remind children to put up hoods.

Parents asked whether there was a temperature below which children were not allowed outside. Mrs Griffiths said there was not, and that staff used their common sense regarding weather conditions and playtimes.

French

Parents asked what provision was available for native French speakers during MFL lessons. Mrs Griffiths explained that when French was introduced at the school, a parent consultation raised the issue that native French speakers needed more support with written French and so this is how the curriculum is differentiated.

Homework

Various questions were raised about homework and Mrs Griffiths referred parents to the homework policy on the school website.

Anti-Bullying

Parents asked about the school's strategies for dealing with bullying. Mrs Griffiths explained that the school's website has an anti-bullying policy which details how the school will manage reports of bullying. The important thing to consider is what the school and parents can do to prevent bullying, and to provide children with the confidence to stand up to bullying. As well as the up-coming anti bullying week later this term, where children will explore their differences and how to celebrate them,

issues of kindness, support and friendship are covered on a weekly basis through assemblies, RE and PSHE.

Certificates

A parent requested whether Mrs Griffiths could sign the pupil of the week certificates in advance. Mrs Griffiths explained that the children come to her office with a friend to have their certificates signed on the day they receive them. This enables her to talk to the children further and to praise them for their good effort and achievement. If they forget, they can come on another day.

School buddy

A parent asked whether children can drink during the day. Mrs Griffiths said that if children bring water bottles to school, they can have access to them in class and can refill them at breaktime and lunchtime. If they forget their water bottle, they can use the water fountain instead.

Maths tests

A parent asked whether the children are given maths tests in class. Mrs Griffiths said that the children are given plenty of opportunities to practise their maths fluency skills in a variety of ways, including but not limited to testing.