

## Oratory Primary School: Minutes of Parent Forum 1.10.20

1	<p><b>Query:</b> Can the infants bring scooters once again?</p> <p><b>Response:</b> The school understands how difficult it is to bring younger children without scooters at the moment while parents are trying to avoid public transport.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> From Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 can bring scooters, but only if it's absolutely necessary. The Site Manager will open the playground door at 3.05 and parents must collect scooters before 3.25. As soon as Year 4 are in the playground, remaining scooters cannot be collected until the following day.</p>
2	<p><b>Query:</b> Cyclists are able to go through the bollards in Bury Walk and Pond Place and this is dangerous while children are queuing.</p> <p><b>Response:</b> There may be an opportunity for the council to support the school in providing signage requesting that cyclists to slow down, although parents need to be reminded that cyclists have right of way and that children must remain on the pavement.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Reminder in Newsletter. Report to Health and Safety Governors for their input and support in working with the Local Authority for signage.</p>
3	<p><b>Query:</b> Parents have missed the opportunity of seeing the teacher this term at the 'meet the teacher evening'. They would like the opportunity to hear the teachers' voices. Could a zoom be arranged?</p> <p><b>Response:</b> The school needs all its actions to be the most effective they can be. A pre-recorded video would be a more efficient option.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Parent reps to ask classes for questions relating to the parent pack by Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October. Teachers will create a video answering these questions and upload it to classlist on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October.</p>
4	<p><b>Query:</b> Can school trip payments be via an online platform rather than a cheque? Banks are no longer issuing cheque books.</p> <p><b>Response:</b> Online platforms require an extensive annual fee, and given that the school does not have a large uptake of free school meals, this would be a huge expense for the amount of use it would get.</p>

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	<p><b>Action:</b> The school's Business Manager and Finance Committee of Governors will explore a possible BACS payment solution at their next meeting.</p>
5	<p><b>Query:</b> Will the school be offering flu vaccines again this year?  <b>Response:</b> Yes, a date will be set for later in the autumn term.  <b>Action:</b> For parents to be advised of date as soon as possible.</p>
6	<p><b>Query:</b> Can parents reorder further copies of school photos?  <b>Response:</b> Yes, this is possible.  <b>Action:</b> Chair of PA to contact photographer.</p>
7	<p><b>Query:</b> Will English, Maths and Science Clubs be offered later this year?  <b>Response:</b> The school is using this period as an opportunity to review clubs, since the circumstances of club leaders may have changed since March. Clubs offer opportunities for extracurricular enrichment and therefore tend not to focus on core subjects such as English and Maths.  <b>Action:</b> The Headteacher to advertise the new club timetable in the newsletter nearer the time.</p>
8	<p><b>Query:</b> Does the school plan to introduce African Studies?  <b>Response:</b> African Studies as a stand-alone subject is not part of the National Curriculum. However, the school is part of a local project on curriculum diversity. This means that the school will be reviewing its curriculum to include a greater emphasis on cultural diversity, black history and a wider variety of positive role models and public figures.  <b>Action:</b> The school will update curriculum maps termly with the revised content and ensure that these are on the website for parents to see.</p>
9	<p><b>Query:</b> Does the school require parents to fill in a Newman Fund form if they have already done so? How can parents find out what the Newman Fund has been spent on?  <b>Response:</b> The form only needs to be filled in with new donations. The spending of the Newman Fund is given to parents at the end of the financial year.  <b>Action:</b> The School Business Manager will upload the spending on to the Newman Fund section of the website to make it easier for parents to locate. Last year's letter will be uploaded by Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October.</p>
10	<p><b>Query:</b> When will school Masses resume and can parents attend?</p>

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	<p><b>Response:</b> The school is hoping for each class to have a Mass by mid-January. Only one class at a time can attend and it may be that a liturgy is more practical than a full Mass. A decision on parent attendance will depend on government guidance nearer the time.</p>
11	<p><b>Query:</b> Which prayers are said in each class?  <b>Response:</b> There is a copy of the school's prayer guidance on the RE section of the website. This is used in class, and parents can also use it at home if they wish.</p>
12	<p><b>Query:</b> Will class assemblies go ahead?  <b>Response:</b> Class Assemblies are an important part of the children's development. They will definitely go ahead and be filmed for other classes to watch. As with class Masses, a decision on parent attendance would need to be made nearer the time. We hope to be able to share a film of the assembly with parents, but every parent in the class would need to give permission for the recording to be shared in this way.</p>
13	<p><b>Query:</b> What plans are in place for remote learning in the event of class closures/further lockdown?  <b>Response:</b> All schools had to have a plan in place for remote learning by the end of September. The Senior Leadership Team and Curriculum Committee of the Governing Body have prepared a draft plan which the full board of Governors will be discussing at their meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> October. Parents' views have been taken on board in the drafting of the new plan.  <b>Action:</b> The final plan will be shared with parents when it has been agreed by the Governing Body.</p>
14	<p><b>Query:</b> Can the forum minutes include a section on actions taken?  <b>Response:</b> Yes.  <b>Action:</b> Queries will be numbered from now on, and actions from this parent forum will be confirmed in the minutes of the next meeting.</p>
15	<p><b>Query:</b> Parents are still parking on zig zags outside school.  <b>Response:</b> The school will take actions to prevent this.  <b>Action:</b> A reminder will be written in the next newsletter. The School Site Manager will put out the 'no parking' signs once again.</p>
16	<p><b>Query:</b> Why is French the chosen language of the school and not Arabic or Mandarin?</p>

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	<p><b>Response:</b> French was originally chosen due to staff expertise. Latin was introduced to year six in order to prepare the children for secondary school. It is important to note that the purpose of teaching language at primary level is to engage the children in the skills of language acquisition rather than to become fluent in any particular language. For native French speakers, parents have expressed that it is a good opportunity to have more experience of writing in their first language.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> It may be possible later this year to have a French club for first language speakers in order to stretch them further. Parents should contact their class reps if they would be interested in this and if they know of anyone who may be able to run classes. This information will be passed to the Headteacher.</p>
17	<p><b>Query:</b> Year 2 SATs were cancelled but are they going to be administered in the Autumn Term?</p> <p><b>Response:</b> The Year 1 phonics screening is the test that will be administered to Year 2 in the Autumn term</p>
18	<p><b>Query:</b> What are the procedures for lost property?</p> <p><b>Response:</b> Lost property is placed in the relevant drawers. Children can access these at any point if they ask their teacher. Year 6 monitors also return lost property to their owners which at the moment is difficult due to social distancing. Parents are asked that uniform is clearly named to facilitate this process.</p>
19	<p><b>Query:</b> How does the school prefer suggestions to be made?</p> <p><b>Response:</b> This parent forum is the correct place to make suggestions. In the event of safety concerns, suggestions should be made immediately to the headteacher.</p>
20	<p><b>Query:</b> Classes being dismissed from the lower playground have been late on some occasions which adds to the already later pick up time.</p> <p><b>Response:</b> On some occasions classes have had PE or an external visitor which can sometimes affect timings.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> The Headteacher will remind teachers to be mindful of timings in the afternoon.</p>
21	<p><b>Query:</b> Can siblings be picked up together?</p> <p><b>Response:</b> The school recognises that the current situation is difficult, especially if parents have a child in Reception and one in Year 6, with the timings staggered as they are. In an ideal situation, the school would have a bigger playground so that siblings could wait in family groups and be collected together.</p>

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	<p>At the moment, the necessity to follow guidance and keep classes takes precedent.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> To continue to monitor guidance and explore further options as they become available</p>
22	<p><b>Query:</b> Are school staff able to supervise late children until they can be admitted?</p> <p><b>Response:</b> No, unfortunately school staff are all needed inside the building to assist with the supervision of cleaning and handwashing etc. Parents have to wait approximately 10 minutes with their children if they arrive late, and so the school encourages all parents to arrive on time if they do not wish to stay.</p>
23	<p><b>Query:</b> Will there be whole school assemblies in the event of further lockdown.</p> <p><b>Response:</b> Assemblies would not be live but videos would be available.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Leadership Team to include this in the 'remote learning plan'.</p>
24	<p><b>Query:</b> Can parents give house points in the event of further lockdown?</p> <p><b>Response:</b> This can be arranged.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Leadership Team to include this in the 'remote learning plan'.</p>
25	<p><b>Query:</b> Can the school photographer be changed back?</p> <p><b>Response:</b> The school changed the last photographer at the request of parents during forum. It is difficult to find the perfect solution for all parents.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> For Parent Reps and the Chair of the PA to revisit this matter at a later date to find a workable solution.</p>
26	<p><b>Query:</b> New reception parents have found it difficult to get to know other parents because there aren't any social events at the school at the moment.</p> <p><b>Response:</b> Social events cannot take place at school at the moment due to government guidance.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> For Reception Parent Reps to consider a virtual social event such as a quiz so that parents can get to know each other.</p>
27	<p><b>Query:</b> Can anything be done to allow reception and Year 6 owls/owlets to mix more often?</p> <p><b>Response:</b> The school has to limit their physical interaction at the moment.</p>

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	<p><b>Action:</b> The Year 6 children will be asked to write to their owlets who can write and draw a response.</p>
28	<p><b>Query:</b> Can Reception class have more sessions of PE per week?</p> <p><b>Response:</b> No, but they do have further physical development activities throughout the day in addition to their allocated PE time.</p>
29	<p><b>Query:</b> What is the fire drill process during the pandemic?</p> <p><b>Response:</b> Fire drills are scheduled as usual. Children are advised to social distance in a drill, but not in the event of a real fire.</p>
30	<p><b>Query:</b> Since children can no longer have birthday parties can they do more fun activities at school such as dressing up?</p> <p><b>Response:</b> Learning has to be focus at school and we always aim for that learning to be engaging. Fun has to be a by-product of learning and not the source of it, but certainly the school can include a dress up day for this term.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> For the Headteacher to explore the possibility of a dress up day in the forthcoming art week with the Art subject leader.</p>
31	<p><b>Query:</b> What will happen about the nativity play?</p> <p><b>Response:</b> Christmas events will still take place, but in class groups rather than infants/juniors. Parents will be invited if guidance allows.</p>
32	<p><b>Query:</b> Can Reception be encouraged to use the toilet more often?</p> <p><b>Response:</b> Reception class are free to use the toilet at any time.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> The Reception Teacher will explain this to the children.</p>
33	<p><b>Query:</b> Can the First Holy Communion Mass in November be streamed live around the world?</p> <p><b>Response:</b> The Oratory Church did have been doing live streaming of Masses, but this has been of the priest rather than the congregation</p> <p><b>Action:</b> The Headteacher will ask the School Chaplain for advice</p>
34	<p><b>Query:</b> Can kindness certificates be given in assembly as well as pupil of the week.</p> <p><b>Response:</b> This is something that can be introduced.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Senior Leadership Team to discuss this.</p>

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35	<p><b>Query:</b> Year 5/6 drop off is now near scaffolding outside a neighbour's house.</p> <p><b>Response:</b> This will be monitored and made safer.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Office Staff who manage Y5/6 drop off to look into this by Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October</p>
36	<p><b>Query:</b> Can pupils wear masks if their parents have underlying health conditions?</p> <p><b>Response:</b> Yes. Any child can wear a mask, although guidance states it is not necessary for children of primary age, and can sometimes spread the virus if they are removed incorrectly.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Parents to remind children how to remove and store masks correctly and to provide a clean mask for after eating.</p>
37	<p><b>Query:</b> Do parents have to send secondary schools original documents?</p> <p><b>Response:</b> This question needs to be put to the individual schools that parents are applying for.</p>
38	<p><b>Query:</b> Can second hand uniform be sold in the playground?</p> <p><b>Response:</b> Not at the moment.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> The Chair of the Parents' Association has set up a system for accessing second hand uniform and parents are asked to engage with this.</p>
39	<p><b>Query:</b> Is it possible to find out about the assistance/government aid that was allocated to schools to help out for lost learning during the lockdown? How can parents be helped?</p> <p><b>Response:</b> Schools will be allocated 'catch up premium'. Oratory will receive £16,800. The Curriculum and Achievement Committee of the Governing Body have agreed that this money should be spent on 1:1 and small group tuition. Ongoing assessments will determine which children are to benefit each term and the tuition will take place during the school day.</p>
40	<p><b>Query:</b> Were the iPads that parents donated to school in the past used for families without access to devices?</p> <p><b>Response:</b> Yes, ipads were delivered to those families who were identified as being without technology</p>
41	<p><b>Query:</b> Why is the school keeping the year bubbles when effectively there is "cross contamination" between all years due to siblings in different classes?</p> <p><b>Response:</b> The school is following government guidance on this matter. <a href="#">Click here for link.</a> "<i>Consistent groups reduce the risk of transmission by limiting the number of pupils and staff in</i></p>

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<p><i>contact with each other to only those within the group. They have been used in schools in the summer term in recognition that children, especially the youngest children, cannot socially distance from staff or from each other and this provides an additional protective measure. Maintaining distinct groups or 'bubbles' that do not mix makes it quicker and easier in the event of a positive case to identify those who may need to self-isolate and keep that number as small as possible."</i></p>
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