

Oratory Primary School: Minutes of Parent Forum 20.9.21

At the beginning of the meeting, roles and responsibilities of the PA reps and chair were clarified and discussion was had about types of fundraising activities that the school could hold.

Action:

- For Mrs Yates and Mrs Griffiths to discuss a subcommittee at a later date to discuss fundraising initiatives in further detail.
- For a chart to be placed outside the school so that parents can know how much the school has raised towards larger projects.

Mrs Griffiths answered the queries and suggestions brought by reps to the forum. Discussion was had where appropriate, and the final outcomes/actions numbered below:

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| 1 | <p>Query: Can the teachers' presentations could be held at different times so that parents could attend more than one?</p> <p>Response: Teachers are going to record the meeting and share the link afterwards.</p> <p>Action: Mrs Griffiths will remind teachers to record the meeting and parent reps will check that this happens and remind the teachers again if they forget.</p> |
| 2 | <p>Query: During periods of unusually hot weather, can the school remind parents that winter uniform is to be worn?</p> <p>Response: Mrs Griffiths agreed to do this in the future.</p> <p>Action: Reminder in Newsletter and on Classlist next September.</p> |
| 3 | <p>Query: Parents asked for a different coat to the duffle coat.</p> <p>Response: The school uniform is discussed periodically at governors meetings. Later this year, government guidance about affordable school uniform will be introduced. The school will follow this guidance carefully.</p> <p>Action: The governors will review uniform again when the guidance has been released.</p> |
| 4 | <p>Query: The uniform shop are selling a new style back pack, can the old one can still be used?</p> <p>Response: The old back pack is no longer made by the supplier, but can still be used. The school has no immediate plans to phase out the old one.</p> |

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| 5 | <p>Query: The quality of the school lunch is not as good as it could be. Can the company provide a taster session for parents?</p> <p>Response: Since the start of term, the school meals provider has had some issues sourcing a suitable delivery company. Food has been arriving late. Taster sessions were offered in the past, but not well attended. Inevitably, food which has not been cooked on site will become squashed and sometimes soggy on the journey.</p> <p>Action: The school will continue to liaise with the school meals company to improve delivery. Due to our situation, parents are at liberty to provide packed lunch if they wish (some schools do not allow packed lunches).</p> |
| 6 | <p>Query: Are the school lunch menus correct?</p> <p>Response: By and large, what is on the menu is what is prepared, but flexibility needs to be allowed if ingredients are unavailable.</p> |
| 7 | <p>Query: Can more information about schools lunches be provided for parents of children with allergies?</p> <p>Response: It is important for parents of children with allergies to contact the school meals provider directly, as special menus can be arranged for these children. The parents can be given the contact details of the company by the school office if they require them.</p> |
| 8 | <p>Query: Can the school employ a specialist PE teacher?</p> <p>Response: The school chooses to spend PE sports funding on PE time at St Luke's. Primary school teachers are trained in PE and the school has a robust curriculum in place.</p> |
| 9 | <p>Query: Are PE lessons shorter than usual and can children have extra PE lessons?</p> <p>Response: Infant classes have one PE lesson and junior classes have two. Further time spent on PE would squeeze other subjects out of the timetable. PE lessons may be shorter at the moment, due to new routines being implemented at the start of the year. This will soon increase as children get used to them.</p> |
| 10 | <p>Query: Can more clubs be included in the new timetable, such as sports for younger children, other languages and coding?</p> |

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| | <p>Response: The school conducted a thorough questionnaire for parents before implementing the new club offer. Sports clubs for young children cannot be provided without further hire of St Luke's, which is not financially viable for club leaders. Languages provided in the new offer were the most popular in the questionnaire. Coding providers were not available in the local area, although the school will keep investigating this option.</p> |
| 11 | <p>Query: Will the walking bus with Fit for Sport take place?</p> <p>Response: Fit for Sport are not able to provide this service any more. The school researched providing another option for daily after school care, but numbers of interested families were not great enough.</p> |
| 12 | <p>Query: Can the 'Covid pick up routines' be reintroduced with an option for parents with older siblings to pick up their children at an earlier time? Is there a way of reducing queues at pick up time?</p> <p>Response: Older siblings cannot be collected earlier as they would miss important teaching if they were collected any sooner. With 210 children needed to be collected at the end of the day, some element of queuing is inevitable. The process currently takes 10 minutes, although some parents are choosing to arrive at school earlier, so they can be at the front of the queue.</p> <p>Action: The school will remake the queuing signs, so the names A-G will be on one side and H-Z on the other, since the current queues are imbalanced.</p> |
| 13 | <p>Query: Does the current policy of parents being asked not to drop off items late at the school office include lunches?</p> <p>Response: If children forget their lunch, parents will be contacted and asked to bring in their lunch.</p> |
| 14 | <p>Query: Can parents be given PE days for the Autumn term in the summer term, so that they can organise after school clubs accordingly?</p> <p>Response: Unfortunately not, as timetables are created during the summer holidays.</p> |

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| 15 | <p>Query: One example of homework is tracing letters, is this too basic?</p> <p>Response: The school is having a focus on handwriting this year, and each class is given a handwriting focus once a week. The school homework policy has been updated to reflect this and will be included in the parent pack. Homework is intentionally basic, so that skills and knowledge can be over-learned and embedded.</p> |
| 16 | <p>Query: Can the school behaviour policy be explained? Are children sometimes sent to another class?</p> |
| | <p>Response: The school behaviour policy is on the school website and will be included in the parent pack at the meet the teacher evening. On the rare occasions where children are disrupting the learning of other children in their class, and strategies in the behaviour policies have not been successful , they may be sent to the classroom of another teacher or to the headteacher's office for a short while, to reflect on their behaviour.</p> |
| 17 | <p>Query: Snacks are not allowed in clubs. Will the children be hungry?</p> <p>Response: Snacks during clubs take away from the club time that parents have paid for. Allergies must also be taken into consideration. Since clubs usually last an hour, hunger should not be a huge concern. Parents could give their children a larger lunch on days when they attend longer clubs if they are concerned about this.</p> |
| 18 | <p>Query: Can the school provide a room for siblings to wait while their brothers or sisters attend clubs?</p> <p>Response: There is neither the room nor the staffing to allow for childcare of siblings during clubs.</p> |
| 19 | <p>Query: Can the school teach about non-European civilisations?</p> <p>Response: The national curriculum requires certain coverage, such as Romans and Greeks. The school chooses to teach Egyptians and Mayans too. Other aspects of diverse history are also covered, including life in the Gambia in Year 2, slavery during Tudor times in Year 5, refugees and the Windrush generation in Year 6. During assemblies and enrichment weeks, the school adds to the published curriculum further. We ensure</p> |

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| | that texts used include protagonists of a range of backgrounds and ethnicities, as well as key scientists, artists, musicians and sports people of colour. |
| 20 | <p>Query: Can the school introduce 'School Gateway' instead of cheque payments?</p> <p>Response: Our school business manager has been researching cheaper options to this and will be ready to introduce this very soon.</p> <p>Action: Mrs Mann will communicate the new system to the parents when it is ready.</p> |
| 21 | <p>Query: Is the school water filtered?</p> <p>Response: The school water is not filtered but has been checked by Thames Water and is of suitable quality for drinking.</p> |