

## Oratory Primary School: Minutes of Parent Forum 22.11.21

Mrs Griffiths answered the queries and suggestions brought by reps to the forum. We did not discuss items that had been previously brought to the forum because parents can find these in previous minutes. Discussion was had where appropriate, and the final outcomes/actions numbered below:

1	<p><b>Query:</b> Could the children read more than 4 pages once a week with their teacher? Is it possible to swap books more often than once a week?</p> <p><b>Response:</b> Children read in many ways with their teachers, not just through reading as noted in home/school reading records. Books should not be swapped more than once a week, as children should only swap books when particular skills have been taught and understood. Parents can and should read other books at home with their children to encourage a love of reading in a broader sense.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Ms Creer will be arranging an early reading workshop for parents to explain the new reading scheme and how reading is taught at the school.</p>
2	<p><b>Query:</b> Why is the school still operating with some restrictions because of Covid, even though the government guidelines have been relaxed?</p> <p><b>Response:</b> The school needs to consider each event in its own right. There will be some occasions where numbers need to be limited/events virtual due to ventilation in certain areas of the school. The school is committed to operating as fully as possible.</p>
3	<p><b>Query:</b> Why is PE sometimes missed?</p> <p><b>Response:</b> On some occasions, allotted PE times are missed because of trips/visitors and other planned events. In any school, sometimes changes to the timetable are necessary. Where possible, teachers will plan for PE at another time of the week, even if children are not wearing their PE kits.</p>
4	<p><b>Query:</b> Would it be possible to introduce further extra-curricular activities such as dressing up days, parents cooking, sports tournaments with other schools.</p> <p><b>Response:</b> The school has already had three dressing up days since the start of term, with more planned across the year. Parents will be invited to the school to cook during international</p>

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	<p>week. Sports tournaments with other schools are beginning to be reinstated, but are usually timetabled for the summer term.</p>
5	<p><b>Query:</b> Can more after school clubs be introduced to support parents with after school childcare? Will the club timetable be changed in the spring term?</p> <p><b>Response:</b> The school has a carefully planned timetable of clubs, and does not have the space to provide more. For the most part, the club timetable will remain the same in the spring, with one or two changes made to accommodate the Year 3 First Holy Communion catechism.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> The school website will reflect any minor changes as soon as they have been confirmed.</p>
6	<p><b>Query:</b> Can pick up be modified to avoid queues? The door is not usually opened until 3.35. Can this be made earlier?</p> <p><b>Response:</b> The school has, over many years, tried various ways of managing pick up. In a challenging building such as ours, we have settled on the safest and most well organised system that we can. The door cannot be opened until all classes are in the hall ready for dismissal, and with the best will in the world, gathering 210 children in the hall will sometimes cause a few minutes delay.</p>
7	<p><b>Query:</b> There is a waiting list for music lessons. Can more slots be introduced?</p> <p><b>Response:</b> There is no more room availability to increase lessons from the current 3 days. There may be movement in the spring term if some families decide not to sign up for further lessons.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> The music provider may be able to offer weekend lessons in the future, if a location can be found.</p>
8	<p><b>Query:</b> Is it possible to improve the toilets?</p> <p><b>Response:</b> The junior and infant boys have been sharing a toilet while building works have been undertaken. Now this has concluded, we expect that children's experience of the toilets will be better. Refurbishing the infant toilets is high on the building maintenance plan when funds become available.</p>
9	<p><b>Query:</b> Is it possible to add further social dates to the PA social calendar?</p> <p><b>Response:</b> There are a further three events which will take place this academic year.</p>

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10

**Query:** Are 'scary' bible stories taught to younger children? Some children in Year 1 were worried about the story of Adam and Eve.

**Response:** Appropriate bible stories are read to the children in a 'child friendly' way. We use a variety of strategies, including 'Godly Play' where the children act out the stories using toys. The lesson content is appropriate to the year group. The lesson slides for the lesson on Adam and Eve can be seen below:

Adam and Eve

Today we are going to hear about the first people God created.  
Do you know their names?  
Sadly they made some wrong choices.  
Let's find out what happened...





**Godly Play**



God wants us to be very happy, but the first people, Adam and Eve made some wrong choices.

1. How do you think Adam and Eve were feeling?

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2. What are some of the wrong choices we make?

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3. How can we show we are sorry?

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Which of these are good choices? Which are bad choices?  
Can you think of your own examples?

Good Choice	Bad Choice
 	
 	 

**Action:** For the Year 1 teacher to reassure the children about the story of Adam and Eve, and explain to them that they are still allowed to eat apples.

11

**Query:** How are more able children challenged at school? Does the school take part in the Primary Maths Challenge?

**Response:** Teachers are trained to assess the children in a formative way and adapt learning accordingly. That means that when children show particular aptitude or ability for an aspect of learning, they are challenged immediately through targeted questioning, feedback, and an opportunity to move on through

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	<p>an extension/reflection task. The Primary Maths Challenge has been undertaken, where appropriate, in the summer term.</p>
12	<p><b>Query:</b> Some parents were concerned about Mrs Griffiths' classlist message about behaviour during Mass at the beginning of the month, and asked whether it was appropriate to have Mass on the first day after half term when children were excitable. They wondered why Mrs Griffiths had taken the decision to talk to all children about behaviour, rather than just the children who had acted inappropriately.</p> <p><b>Response:</b> Mrs Griffiths explained that the day was the feast of All Saints. She explained some of the behaviours seen, and had felt it appropriate that parents had been asked to reiterate good manners at home. She explained that the school has been working hard on the children's listening and manners, while at the same time acknowledging the difficulties children had faced during the pandemic. Discussion was had among reps about the situation and, by and large, there was agreement that parents appreciated Mrs Griffiths reaching out to them, and also informing them at a later date that behaviour had subsequently improved.</p>
13	<p><b>Query:</b> Why is there not written homework for maths?</p> <p><b>Response:</b> This year, as parents will have seen in the homework policy, there has been the introduction of maths app work using Numbots and Timestables Rockstars. This is a whole school initiative. The decision was taken to make this change following requests from parents.</p>

- Mrs Griffiths noted the feedback regarding school meals which would be taken forward to the catering company.
- Mrs Griffiths noted the particular workshops the parents would like and would plan for these over the coming weeks.