

Parent Forum Minutes – Wednesday 16th November 2022

Lunches

Query:

Have discussed improvements to the way school lunch is delivered/presented been implemented and what is the result?

This has been a somewhat slow process as there were delays to the delivery of the new boxes. The catering company are expecting them to arrive this week. Rest assured, the school are in regular contact with the catering team to speed the process up. As soon as these imminent changes are put in place, I will be in touch to let parents know the outcome. Thank you for your patience on this matter!

After school clubs

Query:

Does the response from the after school club request sent out by Mrs Paiva warrant taking this further?

Good news for lots of parents on this front – it did! Plans are already progressing. Mrs Paiva and I met with an after school provider on Friday called Active Day Camps, who run very successful after school clubs in other local schools. We were able to show them round the school (and the limited space we have compared to other schools) and hear what they could provide for us. The meeting was really positive and Mrs Paiva and I are now working together to put plans in place. This would very much run alongside our current after school clubs programme and so, due to our space, is not something we can offer every day of the week. We are hopeful however that we will be able to offer a minimum of 3 days a week. As soon as plans progress further we will of course be in touch with parents with more details.

Query:

Can the school open doors earlier and care for children?

8.30am opening is the earliest we can offer.

Query:

*Was the school successful in securing additional instrumental lessons from Spring?
How many children are on the waiting list?*

As confirmed in our previous forum minutes, Charlie from Piano Fun Club, has now been able to provide us with an extra two days of lessons. These extra days started after the October half term and so have meant that some children who were on the waiting list are now receiving lessons which is great. As these lessons are run by an external club, all arrangements are made by them and not through the school. If your child is still on the waiting list and you would like to know where they are on it then please contact Charlie at Piano Fun Club directly - <https://www.pianofunclub.co.uk/contact>
A reminder that if you need contact details for any of our external club providers, they are all on the 'School Clubs 22/23' list under the Information tab of the school website.

Query:

Can the school introduce reading clubs?

We love reading and are always looking at ways to instill this love of reading into every Oratory child. We are in fact going to be running some lunchtime reading clubs led by our Year 6 library prefects. More details to follow!

Uniform**Query:**

Some items from Sogans are on back order and haven't been delivered for some time.

Having spoken to the head office last week, they confirmed that they are expecting the delivery of caps and berets this week. He was very apologetic for the delay. I have asked one of the reps who is also waiting for an item to let me know if they have not received it by the end of this week in which case I will chase again. We will not carry out any uniform checks until this issue is resolved.

Fundraising**Query:**

Some parents are keen on more social events. Shall we install a committee in charge of social events to take work off the PA to help organise social events and raise money for the school. Can these events be open to outsiders that pay an entrance fee? (Children perform in a concert or similar.)

We are eternally grateful to parents wanting to raise much needed funds for the school. I have been conscious recently of the current financial climate in terms of fundraising and so the most valuable thing parents can do is to continue contributing to The Newman Fund in whatever way you can.* Please see details for The Newman Fund on our school website here:

<https://www.oratory.rbkc.sch.uk/parent-involvement/#top>

Alex Yates is currently finding a suitable date for an extra social evening in the Spring and she will be in touch with more details when this is confirmed.

We will also be holding a silent auction during our Art Week in the summer term for which each class will produce a piece of artwork that parents will then be able to silent bid for with funds raised going towards Art resources for the children.

In terms of opening events to the general public – as I'm sure you can appreciate, safeguarding is our absolute priority as a school and so allowing members of the public into the school to watch performances would breach many of our safeguarding procedures.

*A reminder of what The Newman Fund goes towards:

- ✓ Reading books, and information texts to support curriculum topics
- ✓ Furniture for classrooms
- ✓ Art materials such as clay, paint, paper, charcoal
- ✓ Music specialist teachers from the Tri Borough Music Hub who are experts in their field
- ✓ Playground equipment such as cricket bats, netball hoops, and bikes and trikes

for Reception

- ✓ School trips (which are always subsidised despite parents' contributions)
- ✓ Materials for practical science experiments
- ✓ Maintenance materials to keep the school bright and clean
- ✓ Computer equipment which constantly needs updating
- ✓ Speech and language therapy and Educational Psychology services to support learning
- ✓ St Luke's playground for lunch playtime to give children space to run and play
- ✓ The level of swimming lessons offered (which are higher than many other schools)
- ✓ Partnerships with curriculum specialists such as Ivydale Technology (D.T. workshops) and Westminster Archives to enrich subject areas

We are hugely grateful for any contributions that we receive and, as you can see from the list above, it benefits the children immensely.

Other:

Query:

Some year groups would now like more face to face options for parents' evening rather than an equal split of face to face and zoom.

I will send out an updated questionnaire asking parents their preferred choice so that we can make future plans for parents' evenings accordingly.

Query:

Enquiry about progress made with plans for the zebra crossing outside school.

Our Local Authority Governor is continuing to press on this. However, it is a lengthy process. I will keep in regular contact with him and let parents know of any updates.

Query:

Can Y1 hold a Christmas Bake Sale to take on the fantastic result achieved by Y5 recently?

Every year group has a Cake Sale scheduled into the diary. Year 1 will have their opportunity in June!

Query:

Can Reception homework be uploaded onto Google Classroom?

Miss Dahlgren uploads a weekly announcement onto Classlist specifying which pages of their handwriting books Reception need to complete. As this does not require uploading any worksheets etc there is no need for the use of Google Classroom and saves parents yet another platform to have to log on to. Google Classroom is used with classes higher up in the school and so the Reception children will become accustomed to it in years to come.

Query:

Can Reception parents have more updates on what the children have been doing?

Though some of our Reception parents may be familiar and used to platforms such as Seesaw and Tapestry from Nursery settings, it is important to note that there have been significant recent changes to the way things are recorded in Early Years settings. This is so that adults within the reception classroom can spend more time with the children in their care to encourage early language development and extending vocabulary because this can lead to improvements in all areas of the curriculum. So the focus is less on long written observations and more on ensuring early years practitioners can spend as much valuable time as possible getting to know the children in their care; their interests, development and progress.

Miss Dahlgren provides a thorough breakdown of what the children have been doing each week, as well as photos, in our weekly newsletter – so please do enjoy this!

We will also be having our Parent Child Bookshare after school on 24th January which is an opportunity for your child to show you their classroom, books and anything that they are particularly proud of. We look forward to welcoming you there!

Query:

The side playground door is sometimes opening a little late in the mornings.

Last minute staff shortages due to illnesses etc can mean that staff have to make last minute swaps to cover other members of staff. However, we always endeavour to open the doors at 8.30am and I will monitor that this happens daily.