



Parent Forum

Wednesday 8th February 9am

Minutes



Leading the meeting...

Mr Stock HEADTEACHER





Complement (1)



The Music concert was
the best one we've seen.
Loved the video at the
beginning.



Issue raised (1)

Parents smoking outside
the front of school.



Issue raised (1)

- School will put a reminder in the newsletter about conduct outside school with regards to smoking.
- Individual parents who are identified will be sent letters by the school asking them to refrain from smoking outside the school.





Complement (2)



Love the new parents
evening booking system...
so easy...



Issue raised (2)

Is there a way of getting the parents evening booking system to send you confirmation of your booking. I couldn't remember the date.



Issue raised (2)

This is an option that comes with more expensive software that can be bought in by the school. Our system was designed by the ICT team and was free for the school to use.

- The letters that go out to remind about Parents evening will need to explain the need to record the time and date of the sessions.
- Copies of the booking lists will be available outside classrooms in the week leading up to the Parents meeting for parents to cross check appointment times.
- ICT team to look at the option of allowing the system to ping emails out to confirm times.



Complement (3)



My child is loving the pick and mix. He is also enjoying recycling – even though its been a long time coming!



Issue raised (3)



More supervision needed at the back of school for pupils entering from the back gate.



Issue raised (3)

- ❑ School are increasing the amount of supervision at the back of the school building, currently the caretaker is positioned here but a member of staff will be here also.





Issue raised (4)



My child doesn't enjoy lunchtimes.



Issue raised (3)

Initially working on the provision inside the dining hall which is slowly improving. Training the staff to do a particular job to then be able to step back and allow them to continue this on. School has arranged for Year 6s to go out on the field, freeing up the playground which is feeling quite busy.

- Hopefully planning on advertising for Play Leaders to work at lunchtimes to be more proactive with the children
- Budget for tarmac to be extended outside the Year 5 and Year 6 block to maximise the playground capacity and reduce mud going back into the classrooms.
- Business Manager to revisit proposals for the Year 5 and Year 6 build that talked about outdoor play equipment being installed as part of the build. Chase this up and ensure this is completed as promised.**



Complement (4)



Communication has improved a lot since September BUT... still more to be done...

Totally agree!



Issue raised (4)



The Dick Whittington production was expensive and not actually very good. My child was bored.



Issue raised (4)

When HT arrived the school tried to cancel this production. The company needed 6 months notice and so we were unable to cancel.

The school does suggest a voluntary contribution this is because we are unable to charge for things during school time. The school does have a limited pot of money to support school trips and so if they can be subsidised by parents this makes it more likely that we can offer more trips.

The school does not plan to run this again.

- School will continue to develop its links with The Wolsey Theatre who are offering better quality and more educational style workshops and shows.



Complement (5)



My child is loving being in reception class. I have seen him grow in confidence and flourish!



Issue raised (5)



The squash club was cancelled at 3.29 by text message on Tuesday night. Not enough notice.



Issue raised (5)

In future the school will make sure the following occurs...

1. Parents are provided with the dates in advance of all clubs that are running at the school.
2. School will cross check these dates in advance to ensure there are no clashes before the dates are provided to the parents.
3. In the event of a venue not being available for the club to run on a particular week; the school will make sure that information is sent out in advance to confirm that the class either (a) cancelled (b) taking place in a different location.





Complement (6)



Mr Smith reorganising the taxis outside school has made a massive difference.



Issue raised (6)

There seems to be excessive use of test in KS2, particularly Year 3,4,5. Why are children sitting tests when they havent covered the work?



Issue raised (6)

The move from old National curriculum levels to the new approach has brought with it a number of difficulties.

The school uses tests at the start of the term to check where pupils starting points are. The pupils revisit at the end of the term to go back and tackle the bits they couldn't do previously or got incorrect. This approach provides the teacher with a validated snapshot (as tests are standardised) of where the children are at. There will be elements at the start of a term that haven't been taught yet, however, there may be some children who can already do certain aspects and so the test will highlight that they do not need to be taught this particular element.

The approach highlights to the class teacher the gaps in the learning and the potential.

Pupils enjoy revisiting the papers at the end of the term as they can then see the progress they have made. They can see really clearly where they have improved.

Unlike the old curriculum which was a continuum, children are expected to work on the objectives for the year group that they are in and only in rare cases move above the year group expectations or below it. That means at the start of the year, knowing what the child knew previously is almost irrelevant because pupils are being judged against a new set of expectations. The test identifies what needs to be taught and what is already embedded saving the teacher time.

The school has just finalised the Assessment Policy and will upload this to the website in the next few weeks. The Assessment Policy will explain the rationale for testing vs not testing and how the school roles this out to the children. The policy also discusses how the school has a duty to prepare the children for future life.

The school will not disclose which weeks are assessment weeks, these are just part of a normal week. By advertising them we would be raising the profile of them and creating more pressure for the children.

Assessment meetings and presentations prepared for the parents over the next term



Complement (7)



So pleased the office is now open later... thank you!



Issue raised (7)

Parking outside school is getting worse. Parents are parking in the strangest of place and are not paying attention to local residents.



Issue raised (7)

The school have tackled safety around the entrances by managing the Taxis better.

- ❑ School to look at training up the road safety officers who will produce a leaflet that will be put under windscreen wipers of cars that are parked poorly.
- ❑ School to look at restarting a proposal to Local authority to re-evaluate the parking situation outside the school (especially as the school has grown by a third over the last few years **AND** because large numbers of our children are not from the local catchment.
- ❑ School to approach the local PCSOs and invite them down to help support the school to raise awareness of better parking outside the school. **Mr Smith to arrange**
- ❑ Parents will be invited to take photos / videos of the parking situation outside school not for naming and shaming OR confrontation but to help us build some evidence to put forward to the local authority.
- ❑ **Mr Smith to invite parents along to set up a working party to tackle this issue and formulate a way forward, possibly involve an influential governor to help support the cause.**



Issue raised (8)

Dog mess outside the school grounds.



Issue raised (8)

The all links to Parent conduct outside school...

Smoking outside the grounds, not picking up dog mess in the areas surrounding the school gates.

Reminder to go out in the newsletter.





Issue raised (8)

My child is not being heard
read in school.



Issue raised (8)

They are being heard read in school at least once a week through guided reading and phonics sessions. This is in addition to the reading that feeds directly in to our book led literacy lessons and reading in other subjects areas. The school needs to look at the use of the reading logs which are not always being signed by staff (but not helped by the number of children who do not bring them in to school). When weighing up the educational value of the teaching staff signing and commenting in diaries, it is questionable. E.g. during guided reading asking children to go and get their diaries, to write in 6 diaries will take the teacher away from teaching. The school could revert to signing or using a stamp but does that add any value. Within school we know we are hearing the children read. We can assure you that they are reading every week.

- ❑ School to clarify the use of the reading diaries moving forward for all year groups – what are the expectations and why has the school chosen that approach? **Mrs Steward & Mrs Dunne to address**
- ❑ School to look for alternative ways of reporting to parents how children are progressing with reading.
- ❑ RWI phonics will make this process easier. Year R and Key Stage 1 reading book changing processes to made more consistent. **Mrs Dunne to address.**
- ❑ **Reading policy to be updated to include clear expectations and details around Read Write Inc phonics teaching.**





Issue raised (9)

Blogs are not being updated...
particularly Year 4





Issue raised (9)

The school have tackled safety around the entrances by managing the Taxis better.

- ❑ 4HR blogs will be restarted soon. This is because Mrs Harries is new to the class and in the first couple of weeks we want her to spend her time making connections to the children and focusing on ensuring the children are making progress from day 1. These will be restarted in the next couple of weeks.
- ❑ **HT to remind all other class teachers to make sure their blogs are updated on a weekly basis.**



Issue raised (10)

Can the dates for the Parent Forum be added to next newsletter to remind parents when they are?



Issue raised (10)

Easiest answer of the morning...

YES

