



Parent Forum

Friday 14th October @ 2:30pm



These are the minutes from the Parent Forum.

Thank you to those who attended or submitted things to be discussed via the web form.





Leading the meeting...

Mr Stock HEADTEACHER

Mr Smith DEPUTY HEADTEACHER

Mrs Rogers ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER

Ms Castell CLERKING





Complement (1)



Since the start of term the communication is ten times better.



Issue raised (1)



Communications are hit and miss.

My child hasn't received 2 of the 4 letters sent home in the past 3 weeks.

Can the school invest in parent mail to avoid this?



Feedback (1)

- New post system in place. Each class has a red post box for letters to go home. However there is an additional reminder at the end of the day with the introduction of an arrow system indicating letters in the box .
- The school has invested in parent mail. Link now on the website to sign up for email messages.





Complement (2)



Expectations with reading have improved. Teachers seem to be enforcing reading.



Issue raised (2)

Year 2 - lack of afternoon break.

Massive step between year 1 and year 2 and the increase in expectations of our young children.



Feedback (2)



- Not common practice. HT has worked in five schools, afternoon breaks for year 2 in only two of them. Parents in the forum, who are also teachers, agreed that it doesn't take place in their schools. Understand the concerns raised by parents.
- Difficult to fit everything in, as Year 2 curriculum content has increased and when the children are taken outside we lose 20-25 minutes. Fine balance – ensuring children are given a fair chance of covering the objectives whilst also not making year 2 too intense. Next year for the first couple of weeks we are hoping to bring break back in and gradually reduce it. Difficult to do now the children are used not having it.
- Class teachers have been creating brain breaks during the afternoons, using 'Take10' activities and ensuring lessons are interactive and hands on.
- Another incentive [suggested by a parent] is the introduction of a mile run which helps with mind-set training. Miss Keeley is keen to get this in place.



Complement (3)



Being informed of the curriculum on the website with teacher weekly blogs is a good idea after never having much information about curriculum before.



Issue raised (3)



In Year 2, child has had limited access to drinking water. Her water bottle at the end of the day has either been completely full or only a minimal amount drunk. The teacher allows the class to drink after morning break and lunch time break.



Feedback (3)



- It was explained in the newsletter at the end of September that children will be allowed to drink at any time however children are reminded when an appropriate time is to have a drink. Teachers have been reminded to ensure children are encouraged to drink water and have time to do so.
- A parent pointed out the lack of water jugs available in the dinner hall at lunchtime. Mr Stock to speak with the Kitchen staff.



Complement (4)



Website has everything that
you need!



Issue raised (4)



Could a summary of what the year group is currently studying and ways in which parents can help be displayed on the school website (alternatively a summary sheet sent home) so that parents know what to help their child with?



Feedback (4)

- Each year group currently publishes the curriculum map outlining the content of the curriculum being taught
- Curriculum teams are working on creating additional links for supporting at home.
- Nursery do provide useful information to parents as they learn specific sounds each week.
- The other phase groups are looking for ways in which to ensure parents have everything they need to help their children at home - building on the good practice from the nursery.





Complement (5)



A parent told the meeting that the introduction of the Secret Garden is a lovely idea and what a pleasure it is to walk into school past it every day. A positive use of the space.



Issue raised (6)



The availability and range of school clubs (whether run by the school or independently) is limited. Are there any plans to review the activities offered?



Feedback (6)

- There are 20 teacher led clubs.
- 10 clubs run by outside providers.
- 260 children attending clubs.
- There is a lack of clubs for KS1 which is something to be addressed after Christmas.
- After half term the school is running is an Arts and Crafts club for Years 1 and 2.





Complement (7)



My child is loving music since returning back from the summer holidays! Well done for appointing a dedicated music teacher!



Issue raised (7)



Do you feel that the level of homework is sufficient at Rushmere? My child did not receive any homework (other than reading) in Reception or Year 1. Setting the right amount and level of homework is key but not setting any homework surely is not giving our children the best chance to succeed.



Feedback (7)

- New Homework Policy launched after October half term.
- Reading and Spelling homework is non-negotiable. Topic option added with interactive resources linked to help at home.
- At the end of Year 5, homework will become more formal and collected weekly.





Complement (8)



Dedicated P.E. coaches! My child loves P.E.



Issue raised (8)



Communication from the school is sometimes poor and events not sufficiently organised.



Feedback (8)

- Hopefully events are now well advertised. We have the website, newsletters, texts and blogs.
- As a school it was noted we need to work hard on communication, lots of new things in place to improve communication.
- After each event we are looking for ways to improve it further.





Complement (9)



Children are loving the books they are reading in Year 5. I couldn't get my child to read but he is really enjoying 'Stormbreaker' and wants me to buy him the next one.



Issue raised (9)



In most other schools weekly spelling tests were introduced shortly after Year 1 commenced. However Rushmere did not start spelling tests until November. Similarly at the end of Year 1 we were not given any spellings after the May half term. Again why is this approach taken?

Could spellings for each be published on the website please?



Feedback (9)



- As a school we need to clarify our position with regards to Year 1 weekly spellings and spelling across the board. If the school is going to do them, they should all start at the beginning of the year.
- A parent suggested there is little evidence to suggest the children use the spellings they have learnt in their writing (school agreed). Perhaps they can be put to use about two weeks later to see if remembered. School are looking for a new approach with regards to spellings.
- Action to be taken to make sure teachers mark spellings not the children in older classes.
- Need to speak with the literacy team to see if spellings can be published on the website.



Complement (10)



Pleased the certificates given out in assembly recognise learning rather than performance. My child works hard all the time but finds things difficult, these certificates help recognise that.



Issue raised (10)



In Year 3 and Year 4 children
are no longer heard reading
by their teacher?



Feedback (10)

- Children are heard read every two weeks in addition to guided reading sessions. We also have adults come into school to support reading.
- Children to be encouraged to talk about vocabulary before reading and relate reading to their lives, talking has a big impact.
- In the process of finalising the homework policy; there will be a section where links can be put in for a storyteller's web.





Complement (11)



Like the new certificates. My daughter was always well behaved but a little quiet - the certificates were always given to the high performers or the children who were poorly behaved as a reward when they improved.



Issue raised (11)



My child was a free reader in Year 2 and now they are in year 3 they are not!



Feedback (11)



- Mr Stock is not keen on the phase 'free reader' – banded books now go from year R all the way up to year 6 whereas previously they went up to year 2/3.
- School ran a meeting with parents for year 3 and 4 pupils to explain how the reading scheme has been expanded.
- Banded books from Year 1 to Year 6 are banded on the quality of the text.



Complement (12)



Really appreciate the push on 'growth mind set'. My child is more than capable but needs to be more independent. She is desperate to get a 9 on the attitude to learning grading.



Issue raised (12)



School photographs were poor quality, children looked untidy.



Feedback (12)

- There has been an issue with photographers this year and we are possibly looking at different companies for next year.
- Action to be taken - staff to guide children with their appearance for the photographs e.g making sure all wearing jumpers and ensuring hair looks smart.
- If further issues with photo company the school will look at alternatives.





Complement (13)

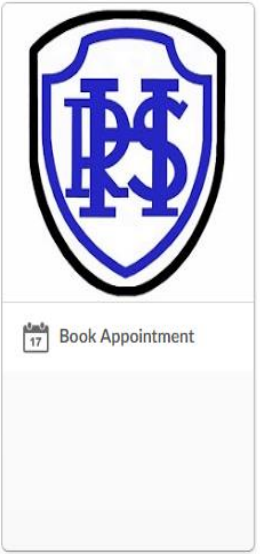
The school feels really upbeat at the moment. Friends I know outside school are hearing good things about the school.



Issue raised (13)



Parents Evening booking process is difficult for working parents or parents who do not drop off to sign up. Could the website be utilised?



Rushmere Hall Primary School

✓ CLASS > 20 OCT... > YOUR INFO > CONFIRM

Choose a Date and Time (BST)

◀ October, 2016 ▶							Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su		15:30	16:00
26	27	28	29	30	1	2		15:45	16:15
3	4	5	6	7	8	9			16:30
10	11	12	13	14	15	16			16:45
17	18	19	20	21	22	23			17:00
24	25	26	27	28	29	30			17:15
31	1	2	3	4	5	6			17:30
									17:45
									18:00
									18:15
									18:30
									18:45
									19:00
									19:15

Contact Info
[View Website](#)
[Send Email](#)

Coming soon!
FULL ONLINE BOOKING



HOME INFORMATION COMMUNITY ABOUT CONTACT

Parents Evening Booking Request

Name of person booking... *

Email *

Child's name... *

Class *

Date... *

Time slot (1st choice) * Time slot (2nd choice) *

Comment

Years 1-5
Tuesday 18th October 3:30 - 6:00
Thursday 20th October 3:30 - 7:30

Year 6
Tuesday 18th October 3:30 - 7:30
Thursday 20th October 3:30 - 6:00

Once we receive your appointment request the office will find a suitable appointment using the class sign up sheets. The school will then email you back with a time slot.

In the event of the school not being able to facilitate your request, the class teacher will contact you in order to make arrangements to meet at a time convenient for you.

**In the mean time...
A compromise... Paper and a web
form for parents to book a slot.**



Feedback (13)

- Mr Stock has put in place an online booking system for parents evening. We have had to compromise this term with paper and web booking slots. However by February there will be a full online booking system which reduce the need for paper and be more efficient.
- Parents evening held in the halls similar to last year.





Issue raised (14)



No scooters allowed. But staff members are challenging some parents and not others!



Feedback (14)

- Scooters / bikes are not allowed in KS2 playground (mainly aimed at the older children and Northgate siblings)
- It becomes a tricky situation to challenge parents in KS1 playground. It is hoped that parents can take responsibility.
- School will remind pupils to walk bikes and scooters in the playground when adults are around.





Issue raised (15)



Can we have more training courses for helping children at home? (Not just during the day but in the evening too!)



Feedback (15)

- It is our plan to introduce training courses in the evening.





Issue raised (16)



Should Year R be in the same playground as Year 1 and Year 2 at lunchtime?



Feedback (16)

- This is standard practice for most schools – its gives the younger children a chance to learn from the older children and meet up with siblings that are still in KS1.





Issue raised (17)



I am concerned about behaviour at lunchtimes in KS1 playground.



Feedback (17)



- Mr Stock has been observing behaviour in the KS1 playground and feels that the behaviour is similar to any of the 5 other schools he has worked in.
- He has carried out the following as some of the children find it difficult to think of games to play and so some are reverting to 'play fighting' and silly games.
 - HT spoke to all Year R, 1 and 2 pupils and explained what is acceptable and not acceptable at lunchtimes
 - HT asked Senior Midday Supervisors to purchase some more resources to ensure that playtimes and lunchtimes are **engaging** and **enjoyable**.
 - Play leaders organize their shifts so they are available in the playground sooner to initial games etc
 - HT suggested to KS1 teachers that the first 5 minutes after break time could be spent teaching a particular game as children are unable to generate their own ideas for games.



Issue raised (18)



Currently two classes receive P.E. in each year group... will this change?



Feedback (18)

- Every term the classes will rotate and so they will all have a chance to have P.E. taught by their class teacher and a sports teacher.





Governors

Governor Elections coming soon...

If you are interested put your names forward. It is a chance to help drive this school forward and help this school achieve stronger outcomes for the children.

JOIN US!



Thank you...

Thank you for reading...

See you at the next parent forum...

