



# Parent Forum

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November 17



## Leading today's meeting...

**Mr Stock**      HEADTEACHER

These minutes are a brief account of the discussions that took place at the meeting. If you would like further information feel free to ask a member of staff or turn up to the meetings to get the fuller picture.





# Thumbs Up!



Really enjoyed the craft morning...  
can we have more opportunities in  
the school year for sessions like  
this?



# Lets discuss... (1)



## **School Dates – Why don't we match with Suffolk County Council dates?**

**The dates shown on the website and published by the school are different to those published by the county council.**

An adjustment was made to our dates because of the expected end to the school academic year being extremely late. The school added an extra date at Christmas and relinquished the 24th July. The 23rd will be an PD day meaning the last day of school will be July 20th.

We contacted Suffolk County Council to check this was okay and they explained that it would be acceptable as long as we had published these dates long enough in advance. We had published these dates on the website last December and have sent them out with newsletters at different times across the academic year. They did explain that the proposed legislation that allowed schools to choose to set their own term dates didnt end up going through parliament and so it is only academies that have the flexibility. We set our dates in line with Sidegate and they are an academy and so they have more freedom to make adjustments than we do.

Moving forward, we will remain completely in line with Suffolk County council dates until such time as we convert over to an academy.



# Thumbs Up!



Well done Mr Stock for banning the use of microphones in class assemblies... children need to learn to project their voices. It drives me mad when the children mumble!



# Lets discuss... (2)



## **Assessment Quadrants – Reporting progress and attainment to parents**

- **Feedback**

Feedback we have been given has been positive. The quadrants did raise some concerns and issues (not connected to the actual information given) but concerns about:

- (a) Parents not knowing this information sooner
- (b) Worries about their child appearing in the RED quadrant
- (c) Previous information given by class teachers which in some cases contradicts information given out in these reports.

All of the above are being addressed and some have come about because we have not presented information like this before. We knew there would be some challenges with introducing the quadrants but we felt as a school that it was useful for parents to have accurate information how the children are progressing.

- **What the Parent Forum feel about the quadrants?**

Response was positive. Clear guidance was given about how to support at home. Some parents felt they already had a good idea of how well their child was performing but still agreed it was useful to see it in print.



Thumbs Up!



Love the advent box  
idea... I don't know  
whose idea it was... but  
it is lovely.



## Lets discuss... (3)

**Homework – A year after the Homework policy was introduced... are there any concerns / issues with homework? Do parents believe there should be more / less / or is it just about right?**

Really positive feedback about the topic homework option – Providing less pressure for pupils and parents but flexible and allowing for choice.

Parents felt that the level of homework was fine.

Parents were unsure about the introduction of more formal maths homework.

HT discussed that there is little evidence to support homework having impact on learning (especially at Primary level).

HT discussed the different types of homework options for maths, including the pros and cons of each. The risk with the preferred option of homework e.g linked to work completed in class during the week, is parents understanding of the concepts and the methods taught – leading to parents explanations to the children confusing them... as parents may know a method but not necessarily the ones used with the children in the classroom.





# Thumbs Up!



I am pleased with the Christmas events planned this year. There seems to be something for every year group but not too much.



# Lets discuss... (4)

**Marketing the School – When choosing a school what is most important the parents? What would attract more parents to bring their children to this school? Is it just about attainment and standards or are parents looking for something else?**

## Priorities for parents / what makes parents consider Rushmere?

OFSTED result not the highest priority

Word of mouth – positive vibes in the local community

Quality of the SEN provision

Happy children

Priority of enjoyment of learning & fun

Location, facilities, physical space & clubs

Whilst the school be large – the feeling that EYFS and KS1 are self contained.

Diversity

Outdoor space! Especially in Ipswich

Atmosphere – including the feeling and vibes from the office or during tours

Not too formal

Read Write Inc – the quality of the teaching... including the Live Lesson.



# Thumbs Up!



I've heard that class assemblies may be coming back in KS2. Thank you! I loved coming along to the assemblies in KS1.



## Lets discuss... (5)



### **Website Discussion – What else would parents like to see on the school website? Are things easy to locate? What is useful and what is not?**

The website looks so much better when viewed via a computer. When viewed on a phone the icons are sometimes in a different order.

Parents are most interested in the BLOGS

They know where the policies are if they need them but not normally what they look for

Discussed Twitter feed to show events – Parents did not see the value and questioned the additional work associated with it when the blogs do the job.

Would like to see more current images of children learning and going about their daily life at school inc. dinner hall.

Would like a guide for new parents – covering the things that are useful to know – that happen like clockwork but that you would only know if you had children previously go through the school.

Deeper details of the curriculum, as sometimes the overviews are too vague.



Thumbs Up!



Communication is  
definitely getting much  
better. Thank you.



# Lets discuss... (6)

## **General Items Raised**

1. School trips – making sure the best quality trips are located and booked in advance.

Ensuring that trips take place, especially if mentioned on curriculum maps.