

Parents Forum Meeting Notes : 28 June 2017

COMMUNICATION

Generally happy - improved – Newsletter good

Sometimes we are told the day before something and that is too little notice e.g. Green Day for Grenfell – not enough notice (we knew about the sale earlier) and confusion about how much green to wear – all green, one green item?, even the text message was not clear.

Important you make it clear, as children get worried about getting it wrong.
Non-uniform days

A weekend's notice at least is better, gives parents a chance to sort it out – we can't magic things out of a hat!

Event details can be too small in newsletter.

Could we have notice of 'dress-up days' at start of year? – with theme as early as possible – give us a chance if we have to create a costume ie World Book Day

However communication is definitely better.

Could emails and texts go to both parents not just one. – Modern families aren't necessarily in one house

Love the ability to link / sync with the calendar. Could a reminder be sent out for that, get more parents to do it. Perhaps put it on the newsletter.

Great you can now email office with permissions etc much easier. Must be easier for the office too.

Newsletter - the table of specific year's activities is hit and miss, not always as good as it could be.

Communication from class teachers could improve.

The things that are missed are usually those that have to come from the teacher. Parents can't always be in playground at end of day – many working – even then can't always talk to teacher

Don't rely on children to pass messages on.

If you need something, like boxes for art week, ask earlier and let us know how many. Parents want to work with teachers to help their children.

Health Matters – Only found out about threadworm through parent network.

WE get text about nits - lots – but not about chickenpox. I think we should be told. Some parents didn't know what it was.

School missed an opportunity to educate parents and children about symptoms, about hygiene, washing hands etc.

CURRICULUM

Spanish

In year 1 only get Spanish for half of the year, why is this? Sharing with music?

Would it not be better to do 1 week Spanish, 1 week Music? That would mean they don't spend 6 months forgetting everything they learnt.

The school should be more transparent about why they have arranged things in that way. Explain a funding decision so that parents understand.

AFTER-SCHOOL PROVISION

Sports & Clubs –Why are they only for years 4,5 & ? There needs to be more clubs for younger children. At the moment only cooking and computer club. It doesn't need to be free, 'we understand we may have to pay for some clubs'

How is sport to be developed? Mentioned more coaching, will that be after-school, open to all? Let us know in an accessible way.

Would be great to have an opportunity to do more.

More clubs would give children the opportunity to enjoy the wider curriculum that they can't because of the restraints placed on the school. Music, sport, singing etc.

Would like to thank Mr Francois for taking Girls Football years 5 & 6.

After School club very hard to get into. Why does it not run until 6pm as most other schools' clubs do. Parents have to work, many in city/west end, they can't get back for 5:30 and there is a lack of child-minders

Does After-School provision serve the needs of the school community? Have school ever surveyed parents to find out what the need is?

Every other school in the area has better provision. We are losing out on some parents who go to Lavender or Merryhills because they know they can get after school care.

"I may have to give up my plans to return to education in order to look after my child as I can't get any after school care

What would the consequences be of changing provider/moving to an OFSTED licenced system? How much more would it cost? It is very, very cheap now, most could afford to pay more.

Understand after school club is moving in to the Winter Hall after September, but will number of places expand?

The Debates have been outstanding. Really engaged children, made them talk about issues eg election. Has increased children's confidence and world view. Really positive. Is the school going to be continuing with them?

Newspaper Club also great.

GENERAL

Could we have some volunteering days in order to help the school – painting railings, planting, whatever to help?

Could the school look at having solar panels, would that help budgets?

Playground – what is the vision? What are the next steps and what is the long-term aim? Year 1 playground looks a bit sad

Consider having a yearly report. Not a long dry thing. Bullet points.

“This year we have done ...
Next year we aim to do ...”

Tell parents positively about plans. Explain any problems in advance.

Why haven't school told parents about upcoming funding issues that have been in the news?

School Dinners – could there be more 'plain' options, without strong sauce?

Could we have more 'tasting days'? Each new menu?

Is 100 club going to continue? It seems to have gone quiet?

Music in the playground in the morning is a great idea.

Are staff still going in to Trinity Street. Nice to see them there in the morning.

Good when both gates are open at the Nursery/Year 2 entrance, easier to get in especially with a buggy. Could this happen all the time?

Problems with some of the toilets. Push button flush not very easy.
Some toilets don't have any soap, sometimes it is tricky to dispense the soap.

Visited once and found no loo roll in year 1 toilet in morning – had obviously just been cleaned.

Happy with teaching. “Happy with yr6 and Reception”

We like the community feel of the school