

Parents Forum 17.10.25		
Attendees: JM (school) MC, KM, SL, SS, JM, AM, LH (parents) Apologies: EM, HB, AF (school)		Action
Welcome and introductions	- Parents introduced themselves and which year group their child/children are in - JM explained the purpose of the parent forum as promoting a positive partnership between school and home and involving parents in school decision making and having a voice	
Term of reference	- JM talked members through the terms of reference of being part of the group - It is not the place to air concerns or complaints about individual pupils, parents or staff and the usual school policy should be followed for this - Meetings will be once a term and agendas will be distributed in advance - Members are expected to talk to other parents before the meeting to feedback their views and not just their own	
Parental engagement	- A central theme for the group this year will be in increasing parental engagement in school life and children's learning - JM has circulated a poster about the different ways parents can get involved (PTFA, parent forum, governors, volunteering) – parents have seen this and think understanding of the different ways is growing - Parents commented that they have noticed parental engagement is a focus and that the school has increased opportunities and promotion of this and think it is a good thing - JM shared the results of the parental engagement survey at the end of the last year and the planned actions. Parents gave feedback and took a copy. It will now be distributed to all	JM to publish the "You said, we did" on the school

	parents. Members think this is important as it is good to see that the school have listened to parents and acted on their feedback. • Parents loved the new celebration assemblies to parents and commented that their children enjoyed it too. There was a buzz amongst children leading up to it and everyone is looking forward to the next ones. • It is a shame that it is only half a year group each term and those that have had it, have to wait until February and half the year group didn't get it this time and have to wait to December. Parents and children would really like it to be termly. JM explained some of the logistical things to consider and how this is the trial but agreed that termly would be better. • Parents discussed the content of the celebration assemblies and it became clear that consistency in expectation is needed across the year group as whilst in others, all children took part in some way including those more shy and with additional needs e.g. holding up some artwork, in one assembly there were only a handful of children who presented and the rest just had to sit. • Parents agreed the notice period for events can be a challenge and like the idea of the school calendar being as populated as possible in advance. They discussed how reminders on the day or close to are good but are often lost in the multitude of text messages sent on the same day. • Parents discussed how in most cases, only one parent gets messages and notifications and how this can be a challenge. They are passionate about addressing the gender imbalance in parenting and increasing the amount of parental engagement	website and inform parents JM to try to negotiate termly celebration assemblies from Term 3 onwards. JM to feedback to phase leaders and create set of expectations of the assemblies to ensure all children take part in some way JM to investigate with the office about Arbor priority contacts and see if this can be changed or shared with
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	overall. A discussion was had around contact numbers 1 and 2 on Arbor and whether there is a logistical barrier to having joint priority contact. • Members were very happy at test scores being shared and think this is important. They queried if the context to scores will also be shared e.g. boundaries and historic data. They also wondered about a suggestion of something to work on at home. JM asked for views on test papers being sent home too and all parents present thought this was a very good idea. • Parents welcomed the return to all face-to-face parent consultations. • A discussion was had around a comment on the survey that some parents do not know who the SLT are. Parents found this surprising as feel that they are very visible but it was then considered that parents may not know who they are and the roles of the people who greet them in the morning. Parents were open to the idea of a map being created with photos but felt that something on the adults would be more beneficial. Suggestions included a special sticker or name badge to be worn whilst on duty or different coloured lanyards for members of leadership. Parents also requested the head and deputy to sometimes be on the green gate and not just the KS2 gate • A parent made a suggestion about how it would be useful to have a glossary type handout at the start of year explaining key terms children will use e.g. dojos, and how things specific to that year group work e.g. when show and tell is. Parents discussed how they appreciate teachers' workload and do not want to increase this but feel that this would probably save time in the long run and is a way to celebrate all the great	parents JM to feedback views and ideas about sharing of test scores to assessment lead and AM to do meetings for parents about understanding the scores JM to share ideas with SLT JM to share idea with phase leaders and work with them to create a template
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	things they are doing which parents may not know about and help them to feel more involved.	
Reducing screen time	• The other central theme for the year will be reducing screen time. • JM discussed how Healthy Habits is a new project for our school and the 3 main strands: food, movement, reducing screen time. • The key foci around screen time are: promoting alternatives to screen time e.g. outdoors clubs, puzzles, creativeness; raising awareness about new research into the effects of screens on brain development; discussions around delaying introductions of smartphones. • School is also reflecting on this and making changes: no ipad use by children in Reception, removal of online homework in EYFS and KS1, investment into practical resources to teach maths, change from Maths Whizz to Century which has no gamification, no longer playing films in the classroom during lunchtime, teachers encouraged to turn off IWBs when not in use, reduction in use of screens in assemblies, introduced free play after school club as requested by a parent. • Parents were pleased to hear all the things that the school is doing but still have some frustrations around online homework for maths. They requested if there can be a paper alternative for families who do not have a device for children to use or have chosen as a family to do not use screens.	JM to share request with maths lead
AOB	• Parents raised the school field and how it is used. Some parents felt that it was not used enough during the summer term and it is a shame that it is not used at playtimes. JM explained how it used to be used historically and the logistical issues that now make it difficult to do the same with staggered	JM to feedback parents' views to SLT and request wider curriculum lead to attend next meeting to discuss further

	playtimes. • Parents also raised that it is a shame that the forest school is not used after Year 1. JM explained timetabling limitations in a large school, the pressures of the curriculum and the risk of degradation to the site and managing this.	
Next meeting: Friday 12 th December at 2pm		