

Parent Forum Minutes - 2nd October 2017

Present:

Alex Russ

Hayley Howard

Melinda Lavender

Claire Barker

Jenny Nicholls

Claire McCormick

Kaylee Seymour

Jo King

Apologies – Miss Stock is absent

End of school day arrangements

Kaylee Seymour said it is a lot better and parents are happy.

Few issues:

- There are a few parents for KS2 who are turning up early to collect children – becoming congested at the front of the school –
 - **ACTION – reminder to parents of the times for KS1 and KS2**
- Parent of Reception and Year 4 children – occasionally Year 4 child has come out at 3.20pm or later
 - **ACTION – reminder to staff to release at the correct times**
- Parents are still crowding round the black gates
 - **ACTION – ask parents to stand back out of the way so that the children can be released smoothly**
- Year 6 parents should really stand out the front of the school but there are a selected few who come into the playground to wait for their children right by the gates and it gets too much when releasing KS1 children.
 - **ACTION – keep parents back - maybe use some cones to keep the area clear to allow teachers to release children safely**

- Claire Barker suggested Years 5 & 6 children to be released by the swimming pool to make it less packed by playground – Mr Russ explained we cannot do this as we are not allowed and the area is used for our parents with children who have disabilities.
- Children running around by the trees at the end of the school day by car park are worrying - fears of a child being run over.
 - Staff do move them along as best they can to keep them away from the road
- Kaylee Seymour suggested a row of cones from Reception classes to Year 1 class to try and help keep the parents away as kids are being intimidated and worried they will get knocked over in the process of being collected.

- All reiterated that the school times are fine

- KS1 – 3.05pm
- KS2 – 3.15pm

Melinda said that parking had become easier for KS2 parents as some parents have already gone

Reminder to staff to keep to the times

Schooling

Claire McCormick raised a parent concern about the amount of time being lost due to the new changes in school time – works out 25 minutes a week

- Mr Russ assured that there was no teaching time lost children are getting ready for home time around 2.55pm usually takes KS1 children a lot longer to get prepared for the end of the school day

Swimming

A few parents have raised issues of there only being 1 parent sometimes in KS1 – **ACTION – check with Mrs Bache**

Jenny Nicholls raised that the parent volunteers are being asked to help all over the school and not actually with their own children's classes - they don't mind helping occasionally elsewhere but would like to help out in the children's year group (Jenny has been asked to do Year 4 and 6 swimming but has no children in either years) – **ACTION – speak to Mrs Bache to get cleared up**

Parent volunteers - not all want to swim so it is making it hard when needing more than 1 helper in year groups for KS1 – some parents only want to help with school trips etc. – **ALL** volunteers should be asked to help on all occasions **ACTION – speak with Mrs Bache and maybe look at explaining to all volunteers that this includes swimming when helping?**

Parents in reception have a WhatsApp group and are questioning each week who is swimming, who is changing the children – parents are being put off helping due to feeling like they are already being accused and made to worry before even helping out – Melinda Lavender advised that was not acceptable to have a private group questioning other parents and that this is confidential and names cannot be given out of parent helpers – if any issues arise then all parents must come to the school office

Messages from Post box

Letter was received stating a few points of concern:

Claire Barker read the letter:

PE teacher – parent raised issue that their child now no longer enjoys PE and cries about not wanting to come to school on PE days – Claire Barker had said a few parents had raised some issues and felt the same, 2/3 parents who live near the school can hear Mr Proudfoot

shouting at the children with a lot of negativity – Claire raised the issue from parents, is it a case of if your good at sport its positive and if your not its negative? – Suggested - Maybe Mr Proudfoot could tone it down with the little ones and be negative and positive

- Mr Russ assured that Mr Proudfoot does a fantastic job and the provision for PE is a lot better he always supports children who do not like PE and includes every child – he will also be around for Parents evening and open evenings for any parent to speak to

School letters - When letters are addressed generically and not to individuals they are to be signed 'Yours Faithfully' not 'Sincerely' –

- **Further update Mr Russ checked with School Business Manager – we address letters with 'Yours Sincerely' as we know the parents we are sending letters to – we would address 'Yours Faithfully' if headed Dear Sir/Madam.**

Uniform – policy should be enforced again – sees too many mish mash of uniform and wants to see children proud of what they are wearing - all Parent Forum members agreed that they need to see the bigger picture here at the school and not be so precise regarding uniform – and realising that not all parents can afford logo clothing or ties etc.

Homework – Year 3 have not been set any homework and no feedback is ever given – can teachers be more specific when feedback is given - **ACTION** - **Mr Russ to follow up**

Governing Board –

Who are they?

When do they meet?

More information about them

Parent Forum – can the PF have a dedicated e-mail address?

Suggested that each year group has an e-mail address -

- **Further update – Parent Forum now has an e-mail address as follows: Parentforum@burnham-on-crouch.essex.sch.uk**

Crèche – will there be a crèche running and how much? – **No crèche to run**

School dinners – Parents have raised concerns over portion sizes – KS2 children have the same sized dinner as KS1 (parents do not mind paying extra for more if possible) **ACTION – speak with kitchen staff**

- **Further update** – kitchen have confirmed KS2 children are served larger portion sizes for hot meals and baguettes; they are given 2 halves

Homemade bread and butter isn't available on tables at lunchtime but states this on the website – **ACTION – check with Kitchen staff**

- **Further update** – kitchen staff confirmed they do still serve homemade bread at lunchtime when dishing up dinner they put on every child's plate

School Library – is it open? If not can we get it open and then send out a parent mail to say it is available – Alex said we had a few problems last year with regards to books going missing - **ACTION** – **Speak with Mr Keene.**

Claire barker raised an issue from another parent at lunchtime in the first week of being back to school she approached the school office to find the door was open not locked with no-one in the front office and she was able to walk straight into the office – there was a child in the sick bay and she could have easily been anyone who walked in grabbed the child and walked straight out again – this is a safeguarding issue – **ACTION** – **Speak with office staff and always make sure door is locked!**

Reception Reading - parents are concerned that books are not being changed for quite a few days - how are children able to complete the Jelly Bean Challenge if they can't get their books changed – **ACTION** – **Alex to speak with EYFS**

Nasal Flu Vaccinations – will be due in Nov/Dec sometime – as soon as we know we will send out to parents

Reminder to all parents about everything that happens in the school as parents are not sure what to do when reporting an absence or general enquiries – maybe we could make up a parent handbook advising them of these?

Alex thanked for today and all issues raised will be looked into.