

School forum – 20 Nov 2020

Teachers present:

Miss Dryden

Miss Taylor

Mrs. Lovitt

Mrs. Watts (PSHCE lead)

Mrs. Oswick

PSHCE presentation (Mrs Watts)

- PSHCE is curriculum to help all children stay safe and thrive and to protect and support young people.
- Legislation mandatory from September 2020. Introduces two new subjects – relationship education and health education.
- Parents have no right to withdraw children from relationships and health aspects; they do have a right to withdraw from sex education. However parents cannot withdraw children from the biology parts of the science national curriculum.
- Important because the world is changing and children are more exposed online to sexualised and other potentially harmful content. Children are exposed to grooming, cyber bullying, sexting and pornography. They need to see the dangers and have the skills to stay safe. Offline they can be vulnerable to grooming, bullying, peer pressure, gangs and knife crime, drugs, body image and eating disorders.
- PSHCE aims to give the children knowledge skills and confidence to make positive, healthy and safe choices. It allows them to form their own opinions and develop resilience.
- Parents are a key partner in delivering the curriculum – important to have discussions at home.
- The school is diverse and the teaching is inclusive.
- When do children need to know about sex? From the age of eight hormones begin influencing emotions and feelings. Some girls menstruate, some boys have wet dreams from this age. By the age of 11 40% of transgender young people already think they are transgender.
- Sex education ensures children are well informed and learning in a safe environment and delays the first experience of sex.
- At home: talk to children about what they're learning, try to normalise 'tricky' topics (the children don't see them as tricky), don't have 'the chat' but discuss at regular intervals.
- Spiral curriculum from Year 1 to Year 6. Teaching at an age appropriate level and children build on what they've learnt in previous years. Autumn term – relationships, Spring term – living in the wider world, Summer term – health and wellbeing (includes sex). The sex teaching will be shared in advance with parents.
- By the end of Year 6:
 - Families and people that care for me – different types of families, all characterised by love and care.
 - Caring friendships – how to make friends, how to deal with difficult relationships, managing conflicts, where to get help.
 - Respectful relationships – understanding stereotypes, cyber bullying, personal responsibilities, reporting threats, self-respect and link to happiness.
 - Online relationships – staying safe online, sharing information online, where to go for help and how to report abuse.
- The PSHCE curriculum missed in the summer term due to the school closure is being taught now.
- If parents have any questions they can email Mrs. Watts and she is happy to share the presentation – it will be put onto the website.

Main meeting

Miss Dryden opened by explaining that she is so proud of all of the staff at St. Matthews and that they are working so hard. They are undertaking far more duties than usual and than unions would advocate. They are giving their time because this is the best thing for the children. Sometimes certain areas have to be prioritised. The school is trying to cover as much of the wider curriculum (PE, music, art) as possible. Covid consequences such as bubbles having to be kept apart, staggered starts, handwashing and extended lunch times (all to keep staff and pupils safe) make delivering the full curriculum harder. All subjects are being taught, some just not at quite the same depth as usual.

Miss Dryden expressed thanks to the parents/carers too. Parents/carers have been so helpful in following the rules. The current situation is a pressure on everyone and many people are having a very difficult time.

Point raised by parents	Response from meeting	Action
How are bubbles defined?	Bubbles are class groups. In September bubbles were year groups but this new approach means fewer children will be sent home in the event of a Covid case within a bubble.	
How are lunches organised?	Bubbles are separated and the hall is cleaned in between sittings.	
How is collective worship operating?	Still daily, within bubbles, through Google Meet: Monday – Miss Dryden or Miss Taylor Tuesday – class teacher Wednesday – Vicar Thursday – someone from SLT Friday – shared.	
What are the plans for Christmas?	Planning, in bubbles, to produce something parents can view through Tapestry or Google Classroom. At this point 43 parents still have not given permission for filming their children.	Please could parents fill in their permission forms if they haven't done so already. The permission is only for Google Classroom and Tapestry, not wider media.
Who is Forest School led by?	Reception – school staff. Y1 – Maria / Miss S (external) and the teacher. Y3 (to start after Christmas) – Miss S and the teacher.	
Have there been any changes to forest school this year?	No.	
Is there anything parents can do to support teachers?	Biggest thing is to emphasise the importance of hearing children read at home. Where there is a gap in the learning it is where children haven't been heard reading. The two-metre distance rule makes reading with the children at school difficult, but it happens wearing visors and sitting side by side.	Parents to listen to children read at home.
Are there plans for more interactive learning if school closes?	Please refer to letter sent by email to all parents on Monday 16 November titled 'Tiered Approach to Blended Learning'. In Tier 3 – children will see their	

	<p>teacher more regularly with videos every morning to explain the day's learning. Following feedback from the summer, the school recognise the importance of children seeing their teacher's faces frequently.</p> <p>Whatever happens there will be no live lessons.</p> <p>The advantage of pre-recorded videos is that they can be watched over again and children don't have to be at the computer at a certain time – it is more flexible.</p>	
Will the school look at more online resources?	<p>The school is currently happy with the online resources in use.</p> <p>Mymaths for maths (also has lessons that parents can follow step by step).</p> <p>Tier 2 and 3 will use Oak National Academy (set up by the government).</p>	
Are teachers checking quality and consistency of work set online?	Yes – everything is checked by a member of SLT.	
How does the school feel the return to school has gone and have children fallen behind?	<p>The return to school has gone well. Bubbles are successfully locked down. Hot lunches have been a success. Play areas are rotated so children can play in different places. Everyone is benefitting from a consistent routine.</p> <p>In terms of children's learning – staff spent an intense few weeks at the beginning of term looking at mental health and well-being; what has happened and continues to happen is still having an impact on the children. At this point the school didn't think it right to do formal tests. So instead there was a lot of practical work and an ex-parent came to do mindfulness sessions (ongoing). More formalised assessments have been carried out over the last few weeks. Mrs. Oswick and Miss Taylor are currently analysing the results. The main analysis is regarding children who were on track and what impact has been felt. Now they are talking to the teachers to help those children get back to where they were before lockdown. The staff can't move around the school so TAs have been used to support children. The intervention teacher in KS1 is supporting Y1 and Y2 reading and phonics. Children have fallen behind but the school are addressing that. The school is currently looking at the</p>	

	national tutoring programme that the government is subsidising. This is to target children who have fallen behind but also those who can excel.	
Are class bubbles maintained at Crystal Kids?	This works slightly differently at CK as sometimes only a few children from the same school day bubble are attending, but we seek to keep children in small consistent groups as far as this is possible in the hall and outside too.	
How can the school share examples of pupil's learnings and good work while sharing assemblies are not possible?	The SLT are very mindful about what they are asking teachers to do on top of everything they already have to cope with. The plan is to start using Google Classroom, Tapestry and Twitter a lot more to showcase children's work. Virtual sharing assemblies can't happen because it isn't possible to have the children in the hall together.	
When can external clubs start again? Could teachers run activities after school?	It is essential to limit the number of people in school for the time being. As and when Covid numbers become lower then external clubs will be re-assessed. Unfortunately the teaching staff have so much going on that they need the time after school and cannot run clubs. The SLT are trying to protect teachers as much as they can.	
Could we have more information about how the school teach PE, science, other areas?	There is lots of information on the school website. Under 'Children' please see 'Termly Curriculum Overviews for Year Groups' which show what is being taught each term. Also please refer to the up to date subject overviews for each subject and the 'Progression of skills maps' - both in the 'Curriculum' section (also under 'Children'). The Progression of skills maps show how pupils develop as they move up the school in each subject area.	
Has the rewards system changed? Could parents be informed each evening of why children were awarded house points?	No it hasn't changed. The school still use the traffic light system. Teachers hand out hundreds of house points in any given week and if they had to document each house point there would be no time to do anything else during the day.	
Is the reward system for homework consistent across the school?	Marking of homework is definitely consistent. House points are awarded for home learning. Rewards for home learning may be slightly individualised by class.	
Will there be Y2/Y6 SATS?.	The school have the same information as parents on this matter – i.e. what has been published by the government. Currently the school are assuming they will go ahead.	

	The missed Year 1 phonics screen will be carried out for now Year 2 children in the coming weeks.	
Why aren't there as many toilets for Y2 children as there were before?	To make sure things are safe and clear each class has a section of allocated toilets, shared across all the classes.	
Lunchtimes – children don't have enough time to eat.	The SLT are happy with the way lunchtime is running. Every class has an hour. Within that time they have half an hour in the hall and half an hour in the playground. If children are hungry they're welcome to bring in a healthy snack for morning play.	
Can packed lunch rubbish go in the bin?	The reason rubbish is sent home is so parents know how much food the child has consumed. Also, to keep the children in their bubbles, staff are trying to get children to stay seated, so it is difficult to access bins.	
Are children allowed water bottles in class?	Yes.	
Why can't the children play on the play equipment when it is open in public council playgrounds etc.?	The play equipment would have to be washed down in between bubbles which is impracticable. The children are getting plenty of exercise. Currently the Covid case numbers are not going in the right direction but as and when the numbers improve lots can be changed including re-opening the play equipment.	
Can the school join the Zoe C-19 'Covid Symptom Study for School Communities'?	The school will look into this. https://covid.joinzoe.com/schoolnetwork	St. Matthew's to review whether to join. School have reviewed but will not be using this.
If there is poor behaviour are children moving between classes?	No. In the past children were sent into other classes however now Miss Dryden, Miss Taylor and Mrs Oswick oversee the classes and the teachers use them to deal with poor behaviour. There is no mixing between class bubbles.	
Can there be a virtual tour for prospective parents of next year's Reception class thinking of applying to the school?	The school have made a film which will go onto the website in the next week or so. It isn't Covid specific in nature – it is an overview of the school which will be useful in future years too.	

Miss Dryden thanked all the class reps for giving their time. She said the new FOSMPS website is excellent. She said thank you to everyone involved in FOSMPS who do their best for the whole school, not just their own children. Their help is hugely appreciated and really does make a big difference.

During the meeting several class reps expressed thanks to the school for everything they are doing under such difficult circumstances. The reps were also grateful to the SLT for running the school forum and the excellent communication which has resulted.

The aim is to run the school forum every half term – the next meeting will hopefully be at the end of January. No meeting was held in the first half term of this academic year because time was needed to get all the new procedures embedded and to cope with the new challenges. It was proposed that the minutes could go onto the website so that everyone can access them.