

Parents forum Feb 2021

Attendees

Teachers

Ms Dryden

Ms Taylor

Ms Oswick

Class reps

Rachel Bridge (Minutes and year 1)

Georgina Scholes (Year 2)

Arthur Polidoro William (parents – year 4)

Feedback

Some comments from parents:

- 'a big thank you to the school and teachers for adapting and looking after all the children in the school on line and at home. It's a big change and sending lots of thanks and gratitude is top of the bill'
- What a brilliant effort teachers, TA and all school staff are doing to keep the children learning at this time. Online learning and resources for lessons plus additional spark initiative and sciences activities are brilliant
- Also, a massive thank you for all staff in school teaching and motivating key worker children going above and beyond to ensure high standards of teaching, learning and support for children is fantastic
- All of the teachers have been doing a great job and have been very supportive, my child loves seeing all her friends at the daily registration and really enjoyed her call with her teacher. Having recorded lessons has really worked for our household as it helps to fit the lessons in around our timetable. A big thank you to the school and all the hard work and time that goes on in the background.

Questions

Extracurricular

- If any specific activities have been missed this term e.g., forest school, hockey coaching, are there any plans to offer these to children affected at a later date – fully understanding the priority is getting the children back to school
Schools priority is to get all the children back into school, the school will be unable to fit in the activities that have unfortunately been missed as this would be removing something that is required in the summer term. Also the priority is ensuring that the children who may have fallen behind have the support required and ensuring that all children are at the correct level.
- Do you think that any of the extracurricular activities will get up and running before the end of this school year?
As above the priority is to get the children back into school. We will have to await government guidance regarding extra curricular clubs.

Return to school

- What is the schools plan to fit 2 terms of learning into 1 term? How will the school assess the individual needs of each child in terms of where they are and what needs to happen for them to catch up?
- Initially it will be about getting the children ready for learning in the school environment again and settled after a long period out of school
- The school will then assess each child to see if they are where they need to be in terms of education
- Essentially the school will be doing a gap analysis and will ensure that what ever is missing is covered within the summer term for each child
- What is the schools plan to help with the children returning to school from a mental health perspective, I am sure many children will experience some anxiety of the return to school?
- School have already planned to do more mindfulness sessions with the children to help with any anxiety with regards to the return to school and also work closely with children who need support, as the experience has been very different this time as more people have been affected
- When school reopens are you expecting that it might be for some years only similar to have the last lock down?
- Unable to comment until announcement on the 22nd Feb
- What is the plan for reception when the children return to school, will they be able to do messy play, ride on toys full playground accessibility?
- Awaiting government advice and will risk assess. The children have some resources to be able to complete messy play but they have to do this with individual items that can be thrown away in line with government advice. School will continue to adapt as the advice changes.
- Will there be an opportunity for school photos once the children return to school?
- School have been in contact with a number of photo companies to try and find a covid secure way of offering school photos and if able will look to try and do them in the summer term.
- Would it be possible going forward for children to come to school in their PE kits on their PE days? As parents in year 4 we are starting to feel uncomfortable about the children getting dressed, boys and girls together at this stage?
- Children of older ages are split when it comes to changing for PE, at the moment school will be asking for children to come in their PE kit etc. on set days rather than getting changed in school. If there are specific concerns please can the parents contact the school directly
- What do the school do to teach about other religious festivals e.g., Diwali?
School is a Church of England school however the school does teach about other religious festivals through RE and follows the Southwark Diocesan syllabus. Parents can view the information on what is taught through the school website.
- What measures are being put in place to support those children for whom home learning has not been successful and maintain the pace of learning for those where it has been positive? Much of the home learning, particularly maths has been levelled down
- Throughout lockdown the school have made regular contact with families who have struggled with home schooling and have provided a number of families with IT and connectivity support.
- During a recent poll of google classrooms 93% of families are accessing the home learning and completing the tasks. The 7% who were not accessing have been contacted by the school and the school have assisted with any issues/concerns raised

- 40 laptops have been provided to families and paper packs have been provided to families who required them
- Children requiring SEND support have had their work specifically pull together for them to support their learning
- Any other concerns please can parents contact the school directly

Next Academic year

- Next year 2021/2022 do you plan to keep the class the same or would you mix up the year groups
- Children will stay in the same cohort as they move into their next year- though the school always reserves the right to make changes where needed.

Home schooling

- Explanation as to the topics that are picked for literacy tasks and how this relates to the curriculum
- School use the power of reading scheme and all texts are approved by the writing coordinator and deemed appropriate for each age group. These are picked to fit with the national curriculum
- Could some of the tasks that only take place once a week please be up loaded on Monday for the week as this would help parents to fit all lessons in around their working timetable and available childcare
- Could assignments be uploaded a day in advance
- School will continue to upload tasks on a daily basis as the teachers require time to prepare the material for each lesson
- Is there any possibility of the teachers being provided with up-to-date technology as on occasions the quality of the lessons from a technology perspective is very poor and makes it difficult for both the parent and child to understand?
- Any issues that have been raised with the school has been related to Wi-Fi issues and not the technology of the teachers, any specific issues please contact the school but they are unable to help with Wi-Fi issues.
- Could there be further guidance on how to access the registration calls as some parents are struggling to join the calls
- A number of families have been in contact and the school have worked through the issues with them, could parents please contact the school directly if having any issues
- Does the school print the packs of documents that are needed to be used for teaching and extra tasks, if so, where can these be collected from? Also, could the quality of the documents please be reviewed as some are very poor and then make it challenging to complete the task
- Yes school do print packs and they are available for either individuals or the whole class at the front of the school. If you require a paper pack please contact the school office and this can be organised
- Teachers have been reminded to review the quality of the documents that are to be printed to ensure that they are usable
- What is the schools plan to support parents and children whose first language is not English; can additional individual calls be provided?

- The school are making additional calls to those families and talking on google classroom once aware of any concerns. Please contact the school office for further help
- Is there a plan to offer the 5 min calls on a more regular basis to support both the child and parents?
- At this stage no change to the 5 min calls as hoping the children will be back to school on the 8th March and these will not be required
- Will update following government announcement on the 22nd Feb
- Homework could there be different levels of homework available as all the children are at different stages to support the children more individually
- Home work is set at the correct level of the children including children requiring SEND support
- Is there any plan to complete live lessons for any of the years?
- School will not be providing live lessons at this stage and will continue with recorded options.
- What is the school plan for children who do not have access to technology at home?
- See response above re: support during lockdown
- Concerns raised with regards to some of the feedback that is being provided, in line with the frequency and content. When will all years be receiving daily feedback on all work handed in? In addition, what is the timeline for the weekly homework being reviewed please? Is it possible for some of the feedback to be a little bit more specific and offer guidance of how to improve please?
- On the school website is further information on how feedback is required in line with national guidance
- For some years unable to provide feedback and marking for all pieces of work due to the number of pupils and the time the teachers have available to do this

Year 6 specific

- What provision is being made for year 6 who have been most impacted by the current situation and have least time to regain their primary experience as they have missed large part of their upper KS2? Are there any plans to put in place any other fun activities to help them enjoy their final year?
- Unfortunately due to the pandemic we have not been able to offer the whole school the same experience of past years.
- We will ensure that the year 6 students have a great last term and a half
- The SATs have been cancelled by the government but as a school we will still need to have a formal term of work as we still need to ensure that the students are able to sit in an exam type environment as part of their preparation for secondary school and we are still required to complete appropriate assessments as part of these transition.
- Students will hopefully get an experience that is on par with past year 6 but all years have been affected and we need to ensure that the whole school is covered.
- School are positive that they will be able to get the children back on track. Before Christmas the vast majority of children were on the correct trajectory following a small number of assessments and had caught up following the last lockdown.
- Are there any plans to let the house captains have any opportunities to enjoy and become involved in their role?
- When the school has returned then they will be able to take on their roles in a covid secure way

- How will the school be looking to manage transition when many children will not have visited their future secondary school? Is there a place for an alumni network, set up of informal bubbles? Cancelling of SATS may offer timetabling opportunities to teach those things that secondaries prioritise?
- It is the responsibility of the secondary schools to organise visits for the students and we believe a number of them have interactive videos for future students to watch.
- If an Alumni is requested then this is something that is set up by parents and not the school
- For children on assessment pathway, what arrangements are being put in place to ensure EHCP progress isn't delayed? Is there an agreed evidence gathering process which can be shared with parents?
- Not many children are affected by this and if anyone is concerned please contact Kathy Oswick directly
- It is a legal process and will be completed regardless if required

General feedback from School and additional answers to questions

- Thank you to everyone who has donated food and toiletries for the food parcels in the community
- It was great to be able to parcel them together and send to families in need at this current time with some good nutrition and it would be great if we could continue this after half term
- Herat warming to see all the donations
- The school have been competing applications to charities to support families requiring support at this time
- Will not be splitting the classes into high flyers etc. work is done on a case by case and children will be stretched if required – the TAs and intervention teachers work closely with children requiring further support or stretching further
- School will continue to offer the Newsletter and they have been providing some support lines etc. through this so please keep any eye out
- The main priority for the school is getting the children back to school and helping them with the transition back into school life
- If lockdown is extended then the school will continue to review the home schooling offered including the individual and group calls with teachers
- Difficulty with live lessons for younger children is their concentration level is limited, but will continue to review
- The school leadership team are sitting in on some of the registration calls to see what is being discussed and are blown away by the efforts of the children, also the teachers are there outside of these calls for further support and calls if required
- Please all enjoy the break at half term and have a bit of a change, school will do their very best by the children and fill the gaps