



St. Ann's Church of England Primary School

PARENT FORUM – Mtg 1 (18.10.23)

AGENDA

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Purpose of Parent Forum
3. Review policies
 - Uniform
 - Food & Snack
4. AOB

Present:

LR (HT), EP (AHT), AF (1T), GC (2O), AC (4C), NW (4H), GD (1M), LC (2H), AN (EYP)

Apologies:

AC (3H), LH (3E)

MINUTES

Welcome & Introductions

Purpose of Parent Forum

- Parental contribution towards ongoing school improvement for the benefit of children's education.
- Individual matters not discussed as Parent Forum meet on a termly basis and therefore the issue would not be dealt with in a timely manner.

Uniform Policy

- Rationale shared – disguise economic differences between families, create a feeling of belonging and sense of identity, promote equality, high expectations begin with school uniform.
- Parents pleased to hear it is for them to decide when their child wears winter or summer uniform due to changeable weather.
- Parents pleased children wear PE kit to school on PE days. Greater wear out of PE uniform and means parents can buy fewer items uniform items, which reduces overall uniform costs.
- Uniform is not gender specific.
- Long hair which is long enough to go in a bobble should be tied back to reduce risk of head lice spreading.
- Positive feedback from parents about policy on earring – backless retainers now permitted.
- Rusk sacks not permitted due to space limitations in cloakrooms. They fall off pegs and create a trip hazard on the floor. It was suggested that school contextualises this for parents e.g. photo of issue in Meet the Teacher presentation at start of year. There are some exceptions to the bringing of rusk sacks that school will accommodate e.g. children moving between household.
- Uniform does not need to have school and trust logo on. This is to reduce the cost of the uniform for parents.

- Suggested to promote uniform policy via newsletter and with children in assembly.
- Suggested to show summer uniform in Home School Diary as well as winter and PE uniform.
- Parents asked to share with other parents that school stock pre-loved uniform, that is given away for free.

Food & Snack Policy

- Rationale shared – meet healthy school standard to promote health and wellbeing of pupils, ensure balanced diet, reduce sugar in children’s diets, to prevent tooth decay, school have duty of care to promote healthy living for life amongst children.
- Parents supported water only policy. Juice causes tooth decay, and can have high sugar content.
- Discussion about Air Up bottles – promote the drinking of water but some parents feel pressured from their child to buy them air up bottle, risk of loss or damage of expensive item in school, ultimately parent choice.
- Only toast, fruit or veg permitted as a snack. This ensures health food standard is met, ensures nut-free snacks in school, allows teachers to focus on teaching and learning rather than policing of snack. Question about why children can not have yoghurts at snack time. Yoghurts are high in sugar so to prevent tooth decay they should be limited to mealtimes only.
- Toast – rationale for deadline explained - ensures sufficient running of school, kitchen know how much bread to order and toast to make each day. Toast reminders discussed - in every newsletter, up to 3 electronic messages sent to parents prior to deadline. Suggestion for class teachers to shout out the deadline date on the door as extra reminder to parents. Request for toast to be free to all pupils and to fund raise to provide this - would need to fundraise £20,055.00 for every child to be able to have toast free. Potentially there are other things to fund raise for that would benefit the children. Parents asked school to consider allowing children whose parents forget to pay for toast to have any toast that is left over when children absent in class.

AOB

- Confusion over layout of Home School Diary as it has changed this year. Reason for layout change is to reduce amount of paper used in Home School Diary to reduce overall cost to school. As long as children read their reading book for 5 out every 7 days a week, they will receive their reading stamp. The important thing is daily reading to build up ‘reading miles’ so that children learn to read confidently and fluently as quickly as possible. Children who read on a very regular basis make strong progress, not only in Reading, but across the curriculum, and achieve their potential.