



OLD BEXLEY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

PARENT FORUM MINUTES

Wednesday 26 June 2024

Attendees:

Katie Allgood (KA)	Year 2 Representative
Sandra Brown (SB)	Year 1 Representative
Emma Francis (EF)	Year 6 Representative
Alex Mills (AM)	Year 3 Representative

Mrs G England (GE)	Deputy Head Teacher
Mrs J Netherton (JN)	Deputy Head Teacher
Jenny Stevens (JS)	Forum Secretary

Apologies:

Jumoke Adebisi (JA)	Year 5 Representative
Abby Dunlop (AD)	Year 4 Representative
Kat Ford (KF)	Reception Representative

Actions from Previous Minutes

- Outside facilities: no further action
- School trips: the school tries wherever possible to keep trip costs down by travelling on public transport. However, for Reception and Year 1 this is not possible as they are too young. The trip contribution received by the school from the PTA is very helpful. However, receiving payment from parents, especially for workshops, can still be quite difficult. Feedback from the Forum was that the children enjoyed the trips and especially liked travelling by public transport and doing something different. The popularity of workshops depended on how they were delivered. KA mentioned that the PTA could consider funding a whole school workshop to enhance the children's learning. Unfortunately if a parent did not pay, the school has to cover the cost and we do not have the budget for this. GE/JN will check that payment for trips and workshops are covered in the Parent Transition Meetings. **ACTION: GE/JN**

School Agenda Items

Term Dates 2025-26

- AM queried the consultation process for the change in term dates from 2025 (moving to a 2-week October half term). Parents had received a letter from the Trust thanking them for their feedback

but parents had not been approached to do this. JN confirmed that parents had not been asked for their views and that staff had only been given a day to vote. All staff in schools across the Trust had been asked to vote but JN was unsure if parents in other schools had been given the option to feedback. AM was concerned that 2 significant changes had been introduced at Old Bexley in the last year (mixed classes and term dates) without any parental consultation. JN said she would feed this back to the Trust and that she completely understood the parents' point of view. She also acknowledged that the wording in the letter from the Trust was wrong. **ACTION: GE/JN**

Sports Day feedback

- GE asked for the Forum's feedback on the recent sports days. She explained that the school had tried to change the format and shorten the event but had received some negative comments from parents. She explained that parents were not allowed to use the toilets at sports day as the school always has to prioritise the safeguarding of children.

EF said that the event this year did seem longer, especially the relays which took far longer than the throwing events. Also, by holding sports day in mixed year groups, this made the event too long. Parents had been told that sports day would last an hour but it was much longer.

It was noted that Mrs Kibby had been an enormous help during the sports days.

AM asked whether we could return to single year groups next year, and colours rather than classes.

EF stated that the 7-lap race in Year 6 did not work as no one was tracking how many laps all the participants had completed. However, staff were better placed around the course this year to help prevent possible collisions.

GE and JN said they appreciated the feedback and will take this on board when planning for next year.

GDPR Forms and Social Media

- The school have recently asked all parents to complete an updated GDPR form. The form has a new question regarding photos on Google Classroom and with the planned introduction of a school Instagram account from September the social media permissions need to be reviewed.

The school is introducing an Instagram account as a different way to promote the school. KA asked whether the profile would be open or closed. JN confirmed it would be open.

KA asked whether any Instagram posts would name children. JN confirmed it would not.

Parent Agenda Items

Nursery

- No representative

Reception - Year 1

- No agenda items

Year 2

- Class transitions

A parent had asked when children will meet their new class mates for next year. However, as the school had issued an update on this on 13 June, this issue had already been addressed. GE reiterated that the school does try to give out information to parents as early as possible but sometimes we have to wait for further details from the Trust.

Year 3

- Homework

A parent had raised the issue of why all homework was set online. GE/JN replied that all homework is set via Google Classroom rather than paper or homework books as this is too expensive. The School Council are due to feed back to Mrs Ivil this week on the type of homework children think is best so it will be interesting to learn the children's views.

It was noted that the amount of homework set throughout the year can fluctuate depending on what each year group is doing at the time.

Online homework also helps to prepare children for how homework is completed at secondary school.

Year 4 - 5

- No agenda items

Year 6

- School dinners

EF reported a comment from Year 6 children that the KS2 kitchen often runs out of food at dinner time and that food is kept to one side for kitchen staff. JN replied that the kitchen should not run out of food as dinner numbers are given to the kitchen each day. JN/GE promised to follow up. **ACTION: GE/JN**

AOB

- SB queried whether a contact book was used in KS2, as children in KS1 have a reading record which can be used as a contact method with the class teacher. JN/GE explained that on the whole there are no reading records in KS2 but all class teachers do keep their own record in class. Although we try to maintain consistency across year groups, it is important that a class teacher also has some autonomy so there can be instances where one class may have a reading record but others do not. If a parent would like to contact a class teacher, then they should either email the school office or use Google Classroom. Parents should be assured that if a class teacher ever had any concerns then they would speak to the parent.
- AM queried the use of the school as a Polling Station. JN said we have asked on several occasions in the past for another location to be used but have been told that this Polling Station is the best one in the area for voter turn out. The school receives no financial benefit from being used.

- As this was EF's last meeting, GE and JN thanked her for her contribution to the Parent Forum and for her support over the years.