



PARENT FORUM MEETING MINUTES THURSDAY 19TH NOVEMBER 2020

Present: Julie Puxley Sharon Bear
Deb Pawson Madi Wilkie
Emma Baker Sarah Steer
Hayley Cordall Clare Leys
Tom Game Peta Torrance

1.	<p><u>Apologies</u> Apologies were received from Katie Horrey, Mandy Weetch and Rachel Gill.</p>
2.	<p><u>Return to School in September</u> All the feedback we received on the children returning to school was positive and very complimentary to our school staff. It was felt that the children are happy to be back at school and are feeling safe and secure in the school environment.</p>
3.	<p><u>Parents Evening</u> Julie Puxley reported that the teachers were anxious about how the zoom consultation meetings would be received but all the response from parents were that the zoom meetings went smoothly and worked really well. In some cases parents actually preferred this format as parents that wouldn't normal be able to attend could 'zoom' into the meeting (e.g. commute for work so wouldn't get back in time) .</p> <p>The only drawback seemed to be that parents didn't have the opportunity to look through their child's work.</p> <p>Julie Puxley said she would consider all of this and think how meetings could work in the future (post COVID) and whether zoom meetings could be offered as an alternative to parents who found it more convenient.</p>
4	<p><u>Home Learning</u> Home Learning was discussed, looking back at what was available during lockdown, and the impact for learning if bubbles have to be isolated.</p> <p>Julie reported that the teachers had been very impressed with the quantity and quality of work from the children during lockdown but they had greatly missed the immediate interaction with the children, which is why we have introduced SeeSaw.</p> <p>The general view from parents was that they had been happy with the home learning during lockdown and appreciated the effort that had gone into producing it all, especially with videos etc. The home learning and videos produced by the school were reported by parents to be</p>

much better than the Oak Academy national online learning. Julie said that if we had to isolate a bubble and go to home learning for them we would again set up our own online learning, as long as there was a teacher available to produce this.

Families with children in more than one year group had struggled to juggle the different sets of learning and wondered if it would be possible to have a general topic/theme running through the year groups. Julie said that the Government view was that home learning should stick to the school curriculum but she would have a think how this may work in future.

The early feedback for SeeSaw was that it was very popular and working well for the interactive feedback between pupil and teacher that had been missing.

9. **Any Other Business**

- **Photographs:** Year 6 asked if the choice of photographer was being considered as not all parents were happy with this year's photos. Julie asked what had been wrong with the photos and although there was no specific feedback on this it was felt maybe it was because they were too formal. We will research options for photographers but this format is really what school photographs are as we have 450 children that have their photograph taken in one session.

Some parents were also disappointed that there were not any sibling photographs this year. This was specifically a COVID restriction, as in a school this size there was not a logistical way we could match up siblings and not affect the safety of the bubbles. Hopefully next year we will be able to revert to sibling photographs.

- **School Bags:** Some parents had queried the school's decision not to have school bags in the classroom. Julie reported that this decision had been teacher-led. Our teaching staff have been amazing throughout lockdown and the return to school and we have a responsibility to make sure that they feel safe in their classrooms with 30+ children. They feel very strongly that the classrooms/cloakroom areas are not adequate to accommodate bags for all the children either under their desks or in cloakroom areas where children will then congregate closely together. We are aware that some other schools are allowing school bags, but in Katherine Semar the majority of our classrooms are smaller than in most schools. Also school bags/rucksacks give the opportunity for children to bring extra stuff into school, increasing infection risks.

Julie said she felt that it was important that our teachers felt supported and hoped that parents would understand that this was a way in which they can help with this.

- **Congestion in School:** It was reported that there was always congestion, despite the one way system, at the gate by the chickens and that the pathway to it was difficult to negotiate. Julie said that she would spend some time observing after school and that there was already a plan in place to improve the path.
- **COVID Tests:** Asked what is the best way to arrange a COVID test, it was reported that parents should ring 119 or go online to <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

When asked if we could make it mandatory for parents to book the test at a test site, of course this is not possible as some families would not have transport, or could not travel, so would need to book a home test kit.

- **Year 6 Classes:** Year 6 were concerned that more children were joining the cohort, increasing the class sizes. Julie said that we do have contingency planning for this. Obviously in the mornings Year 6 are split into 3 smaller classes. Then we have employed a Year 6 teacher, Gail Broadbent, starting next week, who will work with small intervention groups in the afternoon. This will give Year 6 children the opportunity to work in small groups throughout the week and keep the remaining children in normal class sizes. If the number of Year 6 continues to grow (there currently seems to be a need for Year 6 places in our area), we will look at putting Year 6 into 3 classes on a permanent basis.
- **School Uniform:** Early Years asked if there was another option to the white of the polo shirts as they stained quickly and were difficult to get clean. Julie said she would consider options for other colours.

Date of Next Meeting

To be advised.