

# SJS PARENT FORUM

Forum date & time      **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 09.30 – 10:30**  
To                              **Jo Tearle**  
From                         **SJS parents/ carers**  
Prepared by                **Rachel Holloway (Parent Forum Coordinator)**

## **Attendees**

Jo Tearle – Deputy Headteacher  
Amanda Webb- SJSPTA treasurer and Seals (yr 5)  
Jo Craig – Elephants (yr 6)  
Paula English – Lemurs (yr 6) and Orcas (yr 5)  
Fiona Brown – Pelicans (yr 4)  
Tansy Bailey – Kingfishers (yr 4)  
Zoe Konn – Damselflies (yr 3)  
Rachel Holloway – Praying Mantis (yr 3)  
Vicky Lowrey – Praying Mantis (yr 3)

**Apologies** – Lorryayne Smith (Elephants yr 6), Sonia Malhotra (Beluga Whales yr 5), Carly Sykes (Seals yr 5), Sarah Crookhall (Orcas yr 5), Elspeth Fenton & Louise Fox (Buffalos yr 6), Jen Bleack & Nikki Howarth (SJS PTA Chairs), Poonam Pathak/ Emma Sisson – (Nuthatches yr 4), Elissa Collins and Cheryl Small (Crickets yr 3), Cath Dixon (Damselflies yr 3).

## **Agenda**

- 1. Website** – in particular curriculum info
- 2. Mental Health and wellbeing:**
  - Views on issues to focus on in school
  - Info that parents would find helpful
  - Jo to share new Citizenship award
- 3. Parent concerns:**
  - Rewards
  - Toilets/ hygiene

## **NOTES OF MEETING**

**Feedback received** – in black

**Notes/comments from meeting**– *in green italics*

### **Website**

- Frustrating to have checked the school website before Christmas and then to find out by chance, a couple of days before school started again, that year 3 had homework that wasn't on the website.
- I've bookmarked the letters pages so I don't tend to use it.
- Curriculum pages useful, but didn't realise it was there – just getting used to looking at the letters and weekly comms page!
- Curriculum info for year 3 looks helpful – would be better if this was either sent home, or included with the year 3 curriculum letter in the letters part of the website

- Curriculum info is very useful. Great to have an overview of the topic and different skills they will be covering. Yr 6 current topic on Wolves not uploaded yet so be good to see that on there. Would be nice to see a few more blog entries too. Love having the gallery with photos for each topic.

#### **Notes:**

- *Discussed that not quite everything is on the website – e.g. some letters and homework are missing – it should all be on there so if something is missing, let **Jo T** know and she will get it added asap.*
- *Weekly comms – it was suggested that it would be useful if this included a list of the other letters/attachments that should be read, preferably with links to these. **Jo T** to discuss with office.*
- *Promoting the website – it was suggested that the next school newsletter focusses on the website to let parents know what info is on there, and where to find it. **Jo T** to action.*
- *Curriculum part of the website – ensure that the overview of the topic that is sent to parents (saved under letters), is also in the curriculum area. **Jo T** to action.*
- *Jo T advised that if parents would like paper copies of forms, these can be requested from the office.*
- *School is moving towards digital forms – this is something coming from the Trust – watch this space!*
- *Hall of Fame area of the website needs updating – **Jo T** to action.*
- *Not all of the website is visible on a mobile phone – **Jo T** to discuss with Mr Hack.*
- *Suggestion that the front page of the website could have 'latest news' with links to latest letters etc (**Jo T** to discuss with Mr Hack)*

#### **Mental Health and wellbeing**

- Re: mental health, I think anything which helps children understand emotions and different coping strategies can only be a good thing, and would welcome focus on it.
- From a parental point of view, information on the coping strategies being explored at school to then discuss with my children would be helpful; so I guess that's sharing content with parents, and explaining how to use at home if required.

#### **Notes:**

- Jo T advised that there is nothing specific in the curriculum re MH&W outside PSHE.
- MH&W is something that the school think is very important and are keen to incorporate into learning.
- Training for teachers was discussed – Jo T advised that teachers are provided specific training and that there is a Governor with specific training in this area.
- Jo T went through the new Citizen award – there will be different strands that pupils can work towards in each year – it will be clear what you need to achieve to obtain the award, in areas such as leadership, co-operation, school community, wider community, independence, eco warrior, cooperation etc. This will be launched in Spring 2. Everyone agreed that this sounded like a great idea and good that it was clear to the children what they needed to do to achieve this.
- Zoe K noted that it was 'Time to Talk' day on 6<sup>th</sup> Feb, and that various work places had initiatives taking place and there were useful resources available. **Action Zoe** to email resources to Jo T. Discussed that could focus on one initiative per half term.
- Mindfulness – discussed that pond area could be used for this.
- MH&W issues discussed that the school should consider:
  - Understanding emotions
  - Friendships – how to deal with and overcome issues
  - Coping and preventing anxiety
  - Managing expectations (socially and school work)
  - Managing stress

- Perception of failure and overcoming self limiting beliefs
- Yr 6 and coping with SATS
- It was suggested that the children should also be asked. **Jo T** to action
- It was suggested that a PSHE section on the website would be useful. **Jo T** to discuss with Mr Hack.
- Lorraine Lea courses were discussed – it was suggested that Lorraine Lea could run courses at the school for parents (and/or parent/child sessions) on various topics – may be something that could be part-funded by school/PTA. **Jo T** to discuss options with Lorraine Lea and if this is a viable option. Generally, parents that have been to the courses said they were great and that Lorraine Lea is happy to run courses if there is enough take up.

## Rewards

- Disappointed by the inconsistent (and small) reward child received after the holidays. Her child did 20 reading reflections throughout the break and was rewarded 5 house points.
- Lack of consistency around rewards and doesn't fully understand the reward system and the way children are rewarded, particularly for their reading reflections.
- Lack of understanding about all the various reward systems used at the school.
- Would it be possible to publish the various reward systems used at SJS on the website for clarity and transparency, please? Perhaps the school-wide ones, and then by year-group?
- There will always be ad-hoc situations, but it would be nice to understand all the different ways children can be rewarded and the basic standards/measures that are used. It's all a bit of a mind-field!
- By the time child is in year 6, they may not have ever received an 'award' and this has negative affect on child – is there any way of ensuring that children get at least one award by the end of year 6? Or at least ensuring that the system is monitored for fairness and consistency.

## Notes:

- *There is now a section on the website under 'pupils' which explains the various rewards - <https://www.shirleyjuniorschool.org/page/?title=Rewards&pid=109>. To be added to the 'website special' newsletter. **Jo T** to action.*
- *It was suggested that there is a page added to the planner to keep a record of achievements (e.g. head teacher award) – a 'things I'm proud of page' or something similar. **Jo T** to look into.*
- *The school encourages teachers to keep a note of who receives the assembly certificate each week. Please flag this up to the Year 6 teacher at the early parents evening if it's an issue for your child.*

## Toilets – being allowed to go

- I'm finding my kids aren't drinking their water at school and when I question why, they say they are too worried about needing the toilet in class as they are not allowed to go, therefore they don't drink. This is especially bad in the summer time when they need to drink more.
- Quite a few comments received similar to above – not drinking as too scared to go to the toilet, or had an accident at school as too scared to go
- Teacher says that name will be put down if they need the toilet during class – causing child to worry about this and therefore not drink – seems an unnecessary measure.

### Notes:

- We want children to be able to drink enough water, so we are going to remove the 'name down' response and discuss with teachers the need for children to go to the toilet. We will ask them to talk with their classes about appropriate times to go as it can get very disruptive especially lower down the school.

### Toilets/ Hygiene/ Hand washing

- Are children reminded and given opportunity to wash hands before snack and lunch time? Child says they do not wash hands as not enough time. Also a rush to get in lunch queue.
- Child has had worms x2 this year already (more than infants) and there are lots of vomiting bugs circulating would be interesting to know their position on how they facilitate preventing the preventable.
- Child says that only one of the boys toilets has soap in, so can't always wash hands properly
- Gel has run out in class room, so can't clean hands before eating.
- Gel/Soap running out is unacceptable in terms of hygiene and generally preventing bugs being spread.
- Toilets pretty revolting - I am pretty sure he deliberately avoids going to the loo at school if he can possibly avoid it. I am not sure what the solution is... Although I would be happy to volunteer to go in with my rubber gloves and bleach to give them a deep clean myself over the holidays if that was an option?! (Genuine offer)
- Some children go in there to hide when playing "manhunt" and the hunters then stand on toilet seats looking over cubicles etc so the seats get grubby and "gross", secondly he thinks that when they do go in there to actually use the facilities during playtime, they are so keen to get back out and play that they rush, meaning basically they spray all over the place.

### Notes:

- Outside toilets due to be renovated this summer if we have the funds. Thinking about making the boys one unisex and closing off the girls one. There were mixed feelings about this amongst reps – particularly that girls may not be keen on this. Others said that this has worked well in other schools. Suggested that the children are asked for their views on this. **Jo T** to action.
- For now, we are seeking children to be used as toilet monitors, and have asked that staff on duty check the toilets once or twice during their duty. We will also revisit expectations in assembly. Discussed potential to add 'targets' in the boys toilet bowls.
- Staff have been asked to remind children about hygiene and washing hands.
- It was discussed that soap and sanitiser should be replaced and not run out. Jo T advised that this has been addressed.

## RESPONDED TO BY SJS PRIOR TO MEETING

Responses from the school in **green**

### **End of day timings – *passed on to year 3 and to other year groups (5 and 6 specifically raised in meeting as well)***

- Year 3 (especially damselflies) are out late from school every day. Makes it difficult when we have places to get to after school.
- I appreciate that they need to get 3 classes down one staircase but could they have a plan where they organised themselves by gathering in the hall and then come out on time. There have been many times where my child has not come out of school till gone half past 3. This can be very frustrating when you have to be at a swimming lesson or you are waiting in the rain with young children.
- Would be possible for the outer gate to be opened earlier at pick-up, please? Perhaps at 3:10 to tie-in with collection times at Infants? The gates seem to be opening later again and all the people queued up along the fence line outside Juniors causes a big disruption and poses safety risks as people end up walking along the road to get around the mass of people clogging up the pavement. Even when those waiting stay along the fence-line, there isn't really room for parents to get a pushchair past, or to get an adult and child past on the pavement. With pedestrians forced on to the road, combined with dodgy parking and questionable manoeuvres on the road, it's an accident waiting to happen. It would be much safer for all concerned if people could wait in the area between the gates until the school is ready to open the inner gates. ***Rob has been off sick but is back now, so this should be happening. Action Jo T to speak to Rob.***

### **Performance times – *already passed on to staff since last parent forum, and should be better now, but we have reminded them again. Year 4 In2Music concert cannot be moved.***

- Celebration events often too early before the end of the day – e.g. at 2pm which is an hour and 20 mins before the end of school. No event ever lasts that long and if you can't attend because you are working it can make your child doubly upset as you don't see their work and they can't leave school early with most of their peers. Also, difficult if you have another child at infants or juniors as you then need to wait around
- Quite a few comments received on the above point.

### **Planners**

- Some parents are putting lines in the reflections section of their planners to help keep their child's writing neat, could they have lines in the boxes next year? ***We will think about this. Lines can also be limiting to children with different-sized handwriting***

### **Lunchtime – *see minutes from previous forums. The system was changed due to band swapping. There is no perfect system unfortunately. The last sitting goes in nearer 12:30 so plenty of time. Please talk to class teacher if your child is experiencing issues, so an individual solution can be found.***

- Lunch-time: I thought that children were given colour bands for their lunch choice in the classroom each morning, but now it seems that they have to line up outside the hall and be given their bands as they go in. My girls have complained about getting wet and very cold - and then only getting 10 mins to eat their lunch. So now

they ask for sandwiches instead. I'm sure there have been concerns raised previously about children only getting 10-15 mins to eat their lunch, so why change to a system that makes this worse? Not to mention concerns about waiting outside in the wet/cold.

**Lost property – *is (after a temporary rehoming situation) situated in the main office, so is available to look through any time the office is open, from 8:00 – 4:30.***

We have been informed via our child many times that their jumpers have been located and that the monitors will get them returned, and yet many months later, this too has not happened. I'm all for giving the children more responsibility, and that should continue. However, there seems to me to be a need for some other fall back position. If I was on the receiving end of this gripe, I would say this that this person needs to work better with those at drop off to go and sort through the lost property, or that I should do it myself on the (rare) occasion I have leave from work. And I accept these as valid responses, and have tried both, and both have come to no avail since October. We rely on others for childcare, some of it as a paid service, or have very limited time after school to get to after school clubs/classes. We are now notified that there are heaps of lost property and that if not collected it will go to be resold/given to charity. Therefore, I am appealing for some other opportunity, before school or combined with other school activities which are on outside the regular 9-5 working pattern, to access the junior school lost property. Any help resolving this would be much appreciated, thank you.

**Injuries/red slips**

- Do the juniors operate red slips when children get injured? – ***yes, if not coming home, please address with child's teacher who will be able to look into it***

**Avon Tyrell**

- Will there be an Avon Tyrell info session for parents ahead of the trip? ***Yes, communication will come out about this nearer the time.***
- During meeting it was also discussed if the Yr 6 France trip could be discussed at the same time as the yr 5 bushcraft trip if possible. ***Jo T to discuss if possible. Post meeting note from Jo T – it will not be possible to have them at the same time as the travel details will not be know that far in advance. Action yr 5 reps – see if an FAQ for the France trip will be helpful.***

**Recycling – *Yes, please get in touch with Jo***

- Please would the school consider being a crisp packet and toothbrush recycling point? The parent has said they would happily volunteer to help administer the project. These are the links that she sent to support this:

<https://www.walkers.co.uk/recycle>

<https://www.terracycle.com/en-GB>

<https://www.terracycle.com/en-GB/brigades/colgate>

**Post box – *potential issues with this due to GDPR, and money cannot be put in a postbox. We would expect junior children to hand letters to their teacher to be sent down with the register.***

- Can I make a suggest that a post box is installed somewhere in the juniors playground so we can post forms in there rather than having to take them around to the office each time

**Sanitary products – *thank you, passed on.***



- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/amp/uk-51167487>  
I'm sure the school may already be aware of this but just in case, they can order free menstrual products. The link is to a news article about this.

## AOB

- Road Safety was discussed and the number of incidents and poor/ dangerous parking outside the school.
- It was discussed that lots of those parking poorly/ dangerously are parents.
- A few ideas were discussed such as laying jumpers on the road, having a road closure day. Part-time road closures are in place at other schools – e.g. St Johns. **Jo T** to discuss internally.
- Homework was discussed – some parents feel they get too much (in particular over holidays, which should be a holiday), and others not enough. Jo T is happy if reps would like to do a poll on views, and the school will consider the response.
- Positive feedback – this has been provided during the term. Other positive feedback was raised regarding having plates (rather than trays) at lunch time, and the year 6 New Forest Wildlife park trip – great trip, children really engaged and well behaved. Action for **Jo Craig** to collate some further positive feedback from year 6 (*action completed and emailed to Jo T 12/02*).

## Summary of actions from meeting:

Who	Action
Jo T/ office	Investigate whether attachments will still be listed with weekly communication <i>Completed – they are still listed in weekly comms</i>
Jo T	'Website special' newsletter to be produced to let parents know what's on there and where they can find it. Include section on rewards. <i>Completed</i>
Jo T/ Mr Hack	Ensure topic overview is also linked to from curriculum section of website
Jo T/ Mr Hack	Look into Hall of Fame area of website <i>Completed –amalgamated with HT Awards</i>
Jo T/ Mr Hack	Ensure all of website is viewable on mobile phone
Jo T/ Mr Hack	Investigate whether front page of website could have 'latest news' with links to latest letters etc – to be discussed <i>Completed –not possible</i>
Zoe Konn	Email Time to Talk resources to Jo T <i>Completed</i>
Jo T	When the time is right, involve children in a discussion of what MH&W issues they think are important
Jo T	Discuss with Annette Hixon the viability of Lorraine Lee about viability of running courses at SJS
Jo T	Consider adding 'things I'm proud of' page to the planner. Also, consider adding lines
School	Seek views from children on the outside boys toilet potentially becoming unisex
Jo T	Consider other options to ensure better behaviour and cleanliness in boys toilets (e.g. targets)
Jo T	Speak to Rob about the school gate being opened on time to ensure no queuing on Bellemoor Road at pick up <i>Completed</i>

Year 5 reps	See if FAQs would be useful for France trip – if so, collate questions and Rachel H to send to Jo T
Jo T	Jo T to discuss internally re other initiatives re poor parking outside school
Class reps	Consider undertaking a homework poll on fb – too much, too little, just right
Jo Craig	Collect positive feedback from year 6 – <i>action completed 12/02</i>