

Parent Forum Notes – Autumn 2 Date of Meeting: 9 December 2022

Attendees: Zoe, Tansy, Jen P, Jen C, Cath and a few others

	Feedback from Parents	School's initial response	Notes of discussion at meeting (if required)
Attendance	<p>Can the school please explain the purpose behind the recent letters to all regarding attendance rates?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The recent approach feels disproportionate and such a waste of paper and everyone's time. This letter has made me really cross! Surely Mr Lomath has other more useful work to do supporting students rather than circulating this letter. If 97% is their target, I hope they are also addressing those with 100%attendance who come in to school when sick and spread bugs. Surely an attendance percentage based on such a short period of time is meaningless? Why was MCAS or email not used for attendance letters? 	<p>Since Covid, the government have increased their focus on attendance, and have published a White Paper meaning that Southampton City Council and Hamwic Trust are now asking schools to monitor this much more tightly and respond proactively. A Southampton City Council Education Welfare Officer visits each term to audit the steps we as a school are taking to improve any attendance below 90% or at risk of dropping below this. Mr Lomath is a full time attendance officer, this is the entirety of his role.</p> <p>The office does challenge parents when children are in school and clearly not well, and they do get sent home. Children are sent home all the time and where appropriate are told that they are not expected the following day.</p> <p>Communicating an attendance percentage for each term is a new requirement from the Government in the same way that the school is required to look at the data for Maths and English each term. This way we know early on if any issues are developing and can support accordingly.</p> <p>Previously, parents have said that interim communication about attendance that was sent via MCAS and email has not been received.</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-improve-school-attendance</p>	<p>Mr Lomath, Attendance Officer attended the meeting and useful discussion was had around his role which is primarily focussed on child and family wellbeing. Falling attendance can sometimes be the first sign of an issue in school (e.g. child complains of an upset tummy and is unable to explain what we might recognise as anxiety). Using the attendance information to initiate discussion around attendance provides an opportunity for Mr Lomath and the school to identify other issues that might be impacting on attendance and work with families to support them.</p> <p>The school noted that the following impacted on how the attendance information was received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> issuing paper letters which was discussed as part of ongoing communication. Two minutes out of 10 minute virtual parents evening was given over to attendance in some cases. <p>Mr Lomath asked for feedback on giving rewards to those who have worked hard to improved their attendance. Concern was expressed around children with on-going health conditions being penalised and discussion helped the Forum understand that any rewards were considered for children and families who had worked hard to overcome issues that impacted on their attendance – eg anxiety. The Forum recognised that in this instance rewards were appropriate and suggested that any such feedback or reward should be discussed between the appropriate adults to ensure that the reason for any reward is understood and to minimise the opportunity for inappropriate comparisons and perceptions of unfairness.</p> <p>The school highlighted that fines issued to parents/carers who remove their children from school for 5 days or more for holidays are no longer discretionary.</p>

Lunches	<p>There is mixed feedback in relation to the new provider. How is this feedback taken back to Hamwick and can their response be shared with parents?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My child tells me that portion sizes are too small and food not as nice as last year • The new food portions are not as filling or similar size to previous provider. My son regularly comes home hungry. • Constant feedback that school dinners are vile. Tiny portions and not well cooked / presented. • My son loves the new schools meals, I know a lot of people haven't enjoyed them so much but my son prefers them to the old ones and never wants packed lunch any more. 	<p>We will share this feedback with Hamwic and will pass their response back to you.</p>	<p>Discussion was had around portion sizes, obviously fine for some but not for all and query whether small/large portion options could be made available.</p> <p>It was suggested that photos on the app would be helpful to parents as would an opportunity to try the food on offer and see actual portion sizes.</p> <p>The Forum notes that Hamwic are the decision makers with regards to the provider but would like to understand Hamwic is monitoring performance of the new provider and considering parent feedback.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cath Dixon to investigate how feedback can be given via the app. 2. Jo Tearle to liaise with Hamwic and feedback to parents. <p>Further discussion was had about children not having enough time to finish their lunch. This is not something that is apparent to the school and may be a result of the children preferring to play rather than eat. If children are reporting to parents that they are running out of time, the parent is advised to talk to the class teacher about this and a solution will be found - eg going into an earlier sitting with a friend.</p>
Flip Grid	<p>Can we please have an overview of Flip Grid, what it is and how its being used?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My daughter is loving using Flip Grid, it has really captured her imagination and creativity and she loves sharing her videos with her classmates. • Flip Grid - what is it? What is it teaching our kids? How is it safeguarded? Why has this information not been communicated? Can we have more information please? 		<p>Jo Tearle admits to not being an expert in Flipgrid and will ensure that an overview is provided in an upcoming weekly communication.</p> <p>In short, Flipgrid is similar to some other social media platforms but is monitored and controlled by teachers, as such it provides a safe training ground for children to explore appropriate social media use as well as being a learning resource.</p> <p>Concern was raised about appropriate link sharing with a recent example given of a link shared via Google Classroom to a horror video on YouTube. The school is looking into an approval process for video and external links on Google Classroom (and Flipgrid if required).</p>

Behaviour	<p>Despite being prompted for specific feedback in relation to this subject, no feedback has been received.</p>		<p>Jo explained that the new approach is about seeing behaviour as communication rather than as an issue, with the teacher's role being to explore and understand the root cause rather than shame the child for the behaviour.</p> <p>It is possible that the lack of feedback is positive feedback in itself as the new approach means that the children may not notice behaviour being dealt with as its being dealt with discreetly "That thing that you're doing is interrupting your learning, how can I help you stop that?". Children are still accountable for their behaviour but it is approached with kindness.</p> <p>Two key components of the new policy are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Repair and rebuild – used after conflict and gives everyone a voice. 2. Zones – gives children a language to notice and describe their emotions. <p>The school acknowledges that it's a journey for everyone and will be offering workshops for parents.</p> <p>This led to discussion about the impact of lockdown on the social development of children, the full extent of which is not known or understood yet. Schools are seeing that needs are growing but they are not getting any extra support with this.</p>
AOB	<p>Sure Start Parenting Programmes</p> <p>Amy Reid, Senior Family Support Worker and the EPEC (Empowering Parents, Empowering Communities) Hub Coordinator within the Children and Families First Family Hub and Caroline, Referral and Allocations Manager at Sure Start attended the Parent Forum meeting to provide information about Parenting Programmes on offer.</p> <p>These programmes are delivered by parents to parents and look first at the relationship between Parent and Child and then look at discipline. They encourage parents to look at ourselves and how we get ourselves in the best possible place to parent. There are various programmes available but the Understanding Behaviour is a good starting point if people don't have the time to do a 9 week programme. If there is enough interest, there is the potential opportunity to run a bespoke course for Shirley Schools.</p>		

They are also looking for parent volunteers to train as trainers to deliver the programmes.

Further information is attached.

School Street Road Closure

Without volunteers to marshal the barriers in the afternoon, there are an increasing number of drivers who are not adhering to the road closure. There was a public consultation exercise recently with regards to installing enforcement cameras, a parent has emailed the School Street Closure team requesting an update on this but has not had a response. The email also highlighted that children are complacent as they are used to the road being closed, the inconsistent closure therefore poses more risk to our children. It was suggested that a flashing sign highlighting current speed may help. Jo T will follow this up with the School Streets Team.

General Questions

What is the reasoning behind the school continuing to do online parents evenings? Is this something that you plan to continue?

We paid for the system for 3 years - this is the final year. We are considering offering it as one option in March, alongside a face-to-face evening - more information to follow nearer the time.

I was wondering if the school has considered switching uniform provider to Koolskools? They're a local business that is in walking distance of the school catchment, and offers fairtrade products and an ethical and sustainable approach to business. Would it be at all possible to make them another uniform supplier?

Thank you for the suggestion, we will look into it

Can the 'Share my Learning' day be moved around? Holding it on the same day of the week every time affects parents who work set days.

Thank you for the suggestion, we will see if we can accommodate that.

Are there any plans to do anything with the bike shed? It's like a marsh in there!

Not at present but we will make sure it gets a clean out and the leaves removed

Are there any plans for year 4s to visit the library?

Children should be going to the library regularly but we know this does not always happen - our Literacy Leader is looking at how we can ensure children access the library.

Ongoing state of toilets, is this ever going to get sorted?

The money we had put aside for the toilet renovation is sadly no longer available. The Government have approved a 5% pay rise for all staff but have not given schools any extra funding, this equates to the school having to find £70,000 from the existing budget to fund this pay rise. Unfortunately this means that the toilets will need to remain as they are for now, but we will monitor them more regularly and report any issues to the site team. Pupil jobs will begin again after Christmas so Mrs Tearle is hoping to recruit some toilet monitors!

We find that a lot of the reports regarding the "state" of toilets relates to them not having been flushed by the previous user. We will therefore be focussing on flushing at school and will be asking children to design posters. The school would be grateful if parents could reinforce the need to flush, preferably after use but before use if they arrive to find it's not been done! Please can you also make sure children know to flush toilets at school even if you have a different policy at home in order to save water.

Is there an issue with getting the gates open for pick up, it seems to have happen late a few times.

Noted, will try and improve. Gates not being opened on time at pickup - ask Rob to monitor this.

Positive Feedback

Year 6 Spitfires topic really went down well in our house which is really saying something for a writing topic! Lush hook day went down well too.

Year 6 Praise for Mrs Davies who has obviously had a stressful time recently but not let it interfere with teaching.

Year 6 Issue of profane language amongst some boys was shocking but has been dealt with well. I hope they succeed with stamping it out.

Year 3 I just wanted to thank Mrs Tearle, the children in orchid mantis class absolutely loved having her teach them whilst Mrs Davies was off.

Year 6 Big thank you to Yr6 staff for the Little Canada trip, the kids had an amazing time.

Year 5 Big thanks to Miss Roberts, my son has had a great term and seems really happy and stimulated at school.

Yr5/6 Thank you to the teachers who supported yr 5/6 girls football tournament, they loved it.

Thanks for listening and acting on TT Rockstars feedback from parents.

Music theme of the week seems to be going down well, mine always tell me the theme and it seems to inspire them, Well done for being consistent with this.