



## Family Forum Overview

The Family Forum is a partnership between families and the school. It is a valuable way to openly share questions, positives, concerns, ideas, views, thoughts and make suggestions for improvement.

### **Aims:**

- Provide a voice to our families so their needs and views can be heard
- Work together to improve the education provided for our children
- Work together to improve the wellbeing of our children
- Share information, knowledge and skills
- Further improve communications between families and staff/governors

### **Reminders:**

- Ideas, thoughts and suggestions are respected in a mutually supportive environment
- Discussions will be around anything related to improving the school and further developing the partnership between the school and families.
- The agenda has been collaboratively created through emails and 'quick slips'. Anything raised outside of the prepared agenda will be added to the next Family Forum (see last agenda item).
- It is not a forum to discuss individual concerns or complaints involving individual children, families or members of staff. These are to be discussed with teachers when they arise, as soon as possible.
- The Family Forum does not have responsibilities, powers or duties in the school.
- The Family Forum is a safe place to raise concerns, celebrate success and find solutions to problems together

## Family Forum #3: Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023

- School received 5 'quick slips' and 1 email from families: this feedback formed the agenda.
- Present:
  - Headteacher
  - 2 x Year 4 Parents
  - 1 x Year 3 Parent

Meeting opened: 3:30pm

### **1. Welcome and Refresh of Aims & Reminders**

### **2. Actions for Previous Meeting:**

- Add Family Forum Page and info. to the school website **will happen after final website update**
- School to look into setting up SEND Forum/working group with parents. **Time & date to be arranged**
- School to provide information on how to contact Mr C on newsletter **complete**
- School to arrange transition days for newly recruited teacher **complete**
- School to post information on local/universal offer **complete**
- School to inform all stakeholders (children, families & staff) of snack changes **complete**
- School to seek more ideas for starter pack on newsletter (via quick slip) **complete**
- School to develop a 'starter pack' for each class at the beginning of the school year to replace class newsletter **complete**
- School to develop a new Cardinham Challenge and outline expectations for families taking part **complete**

### 3. Answers to some 'Quick Slip' feedback/suggestions:

We are unable to make changes for all of the feedback/suggestions that we receive. However, we were pleased to receive this feedback so we could provide answers and rationales to explain why we have arrived at these decisions. We hope that this provides clarity as to why we have arrived at the decisions we have. Below are the answers/responses to the feedback/suggestions that we received –these were shared and discussed in the Family Forum.

- **Can swimming be introduced for other year groups?** It is a National Curriculum requirement that schools provide swimming for pupils in Key Stage 1 *or* Key Stage 2. We have made the decision for pupils in Year 5 and Year 6 to swim – this takes place in the Summer Term for at least 8 weeks. This is above and beyond the National Curriculum expectations. Financially and logistically, it is no longer feasible to take more than one class swimming and, post COVID, we chose Year 5 & 6 otherwise some children would have missed the opportunity to swim at Primary School age. If we now changed this approach and moved to another year, some children would miss out.
- **How are INSET days decided?** INSET days are 'In Service Training Days'. The allocated days are decided a school year in advance and, once set, cannot be changed. Where these days are positioned throughout the year depends on the training needs of staff and academy arrangements. **One parent present expressed that they liked that our INSET days are spaced out.**
- **Can the children start getting changed for PE in school again?** We have found huge benefits to pupils being able to wear PE kit to school so will be continuing with this approach. Amongst other benefits, we have less clothing going missing, less disruption during the day and there is no lesson time lost because children are already ready for PE. **One parent asked about wet weather and being in damp clothes for the rest of the day.** In the wetter months, please feel free to bring in spare clothes in PE bags so pupils can change after a rainy PE session.
- **Can we bring in sweets & treats for my child's birthday?** We will be maintaining our stance on children *not* bringing in sweets and treats for their birthdays. We believe that allowing pupils to bring in sweets and treats creates undue pressure on families and, also, makes it difficult for staff to manage dietary requirements of individual pupils. Pupils are able to distribute party bags, treats etc... outside of school if they wish to on their birthday.
- **Why don't Nursery and Reception have sausages for school dinners? Can healthier choice be provided for school dinner dessert?** Our catering is provided by Chartwells - they provide our school dinner service and decide what is and what isn't on the menu. Sausages are considered to be a choking hazard for Early Years pupils so sausages are not served at Woodside. On days when sausages are on the menu, Nursery and Reception have mac n cheese, tomato pasta or jacket potato. There is always a sweet treat and fruit option for dessert – pupils have the choice and are encouraged to make healthy choices. **One parent asked about providing more substantial desserts.** If you would like to provide feedback on the school dinners, you can do so by clicking on the following link: [Contact Us | School & Education Catering | Chartwells](#)
- **School Day Timings:** Thank you for the feedback with regards to the end of the school day. We will ensure we are prompt with the departure of pupils.
- **Can the lost property basket be taken out more regularly?** We do have a lost property box which can be found near where Fox Class hang their coats – we appreciate that this isn't well-known so will make sure that it is communicated better. We will ensure the lost property basket comes out fortnightly to ensure parents/carers have the opportunity to look through for lost property.

#### 4. Extra-Curricular Opportunities & Personal Development of Pupils

- i. Cost of school trips were discussed.
- ii. Parents were asked on possible opportunities and suggestions for extra-curricular trips for this year. Suggestions received were around:

Sporting events Music tuition Drama Productions School Camp	More 'talks' in school (careers, local services, first aid, R.N.L.I etc) Salmon Hatchery at Colliford Lake	Forestry Commission Team building opportunities provided inside and outside of school
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#### ACTIONS:

- School to gather information from parents in an online survey:
  - Cost of trips
  - Parent suggestions for trips to see what is available within our community
- School to provide information on music tuition in school
- School to share the wider curriculum opportunities when planned for the school year

#### 5. Parent/Carer Information Booklets

Discussion centred around:

- i. Parents present were complimentary about the previous 2 booklets received this year.
- ii. Ideas and suggestions for the next booklet were received:
  - Learning to read at Cardinham School with rationale for this approach, include:
    - a. Reading diaries, changing books (how often) & karate bands expectations
    - b. 'What counts as a read' information
    - c. Engagement of Upper Key Stage 2 Readers
    - d. How school monitors above and ensures consistency
  - Expectations for year groups are clear i.e. what timetables do we expect in Year 4.
  - Homework expectations (see below)
  - Info on how to help at home:
    - a. Apps/games and log ins (and useful websites)
    - b. Useful educational links
    - c. Info. on tennis courts
    - d. Homework expectations

#### ACTIONS:

- School to include all above suggestions within the next parent/information booklet

#### 6. Homework

Discussion centred around:

- i. School rationale for homework and reading expectations
- ii. Activities sent out to support maths and spellings
- iii. A parent sought reassurance that, even though homework isn't sent home regularly, teachers would approach parents/carers requesting additional practice if necessary. This was confirmed.

#### ACTIONS:

- School to include homework expectations within the above booklet

#### 7. Communication

Discussion centred around:

- i. Amount of Communication from School. Parents present felt that they level of communication was enough and that it has been streamlined.
- ii. Accessibility of information.

#### ACTIONS:

- School to add all documents to website for future reference.

- School to make paper copies available for all documents sent home.
- School to provide dates for the whole year as soon as possible (nativity, Christingle, production etc...)

Family Forum closed: 4:25pm