

Home Farm Primary School

Parent Forum – Friday 13th July 2018, 2:15pm

Present – Mr Potter, Mrs King, Mr Travi, Mrs Turvil, Mrs Ciobotaru, Mrs Nesbitt, Mrs Whiteford, Mrs Carlin
(minutes)

Welcome and introductions

1. Mr Potter welcomed parents to the meeting. The Parent Forum noted the minutes of the previous meeting – all action points had been taken forward.

Expansion and build

2. Mr Potter provided an update on the expansion and build project. During the two planned school closure days on 19th and 20th July, the contents of the classrooms and office in the existing building would be relocated to enable the refurbishment of the existing building to take place over the summer holidays. This included full replacement of the roof; replacement of the windows around the top of the hall walls; changes to the configuration of the hall; refurbishment of the office; relocation of the staffroom; new toilets to some classrooms; and new carpet and vinyl flooring to some classrooms. The new larger playground had been surfaced, and playground markings would be installed soon.
3. Parents asked whether the school would be ready to start the new term on 5th September. Mr Potter confirmed that this would be the case. In September, all classes with the exception of Reception would be in the new block. There would be two Reception classes, and two Year 4 classes. At this point, there were 42 children in next year's Year 4 cohort, so there would be 21 in each class.
4. Parents asked when further new classes would be opened up and Mr Potter explained the process on this. He explained that if cohorts expanded in-year, his intention would be not to split the cohort during the year, but to operate a larger class with two teachers and two teaching spaces. The cohorts could then be formally split into separate classes at the end of an academic year.

After-school club

5. Mr Potter provided an update on plans to create an after-school club. The school was currently recruiting staff to run the club. The supervisor post had been filled, and two assistant posts were currently being advertised. Once the vacancies were filled, the school would be in a position to confirm a start date. The after-school club would take place in the hall and would be able to use the outside space also.
6. Parents asked whether the after-school club would still cost £15 as per the consultation letter. Mr Potter explained that this was the current plan, and that it was important for the school to ensure that it was able to break even financially on the club. Parents mentioned some other local schools who offered after school clubs at a lesser amount than this, but some of these clubs were subsidised by schools and Home Farm was not in a position to do this. Parents asked whether there could be an hourly rate. It was noted that this would be more complicated to administer. Mr Potter confirmed that the school would take this feedback into account as the plans developed and would keep the pricing under review.

Issues raised by parents

7. Parents asked whether children wearing summer dresses in school were required to wear their PE shorts underneath. Mr Potter explained that this was not a written rule in school, but girls wore their PE shorts

underneath skirts and dresses when doing gymnastics in the playground. Although this was more relevant to the older girls than the younger girls, the same approach was adopted across the whole school. Parents discussed the pros and cons of this.

8. Parents provided some feedback on the school dinner menu, including whether it was possible to have non-coated fish on the menu and whether it was possible to make more use of lentils and pulses in the menus. Parents also commented on the jacket potato day and whether there was enough variety on the menu on these days.
9. Mr Potter explained that the menus were put together with support from the ECC School Meal Service and met the Government's food standards for school meals. New menus would be put in place from October half-term, and this feedback could be taken into account in the planning process for those. The school had to balance a number of factors including meeting the nutritional standards; educating children about food and healthy eating; maintaining the meal uptake numbers; and delivering meals which could be cooked to scale and within budget. The Parent Forum discussed ways in which the school could build food into the curriculum to a greater extent, linking the curriculum with the food delivered in the school kitchen, and the school would take this forward.
10. Parents asked some questions about the pupil reports which had been sent home the previous week. Parents asked whether it was possible to provide details of attainment for the foundation subjects as well as effort. Mr Potter explained that there was no attainment standard nationally for foundation subjects, and no expected range. The school provided parents with an insight into what has been taught through the detailed data which accompanied the school report. However there was no national benchmark against which this could be compared.
11. Parents commented that they liked the format of the report, and preferred the Year 1 to 6 report format to the one which was provided in EYFS. Parents asked whether the school would continue to use Tapestry in EYFS in the next school year and Mr Potter confirmed that this was the case.
12. Parents asked whether there was a benchmark to evaluate the progress and attainment of children with special educational needs. Mr Potter explained that there was detailed scrutiny and monitoring of vulnerable groups of all kind, and that progress and attainment of vulnerable groups including children with SEND was compared to progress and attainment of children nationally. However within the bracket of 'special educational needs,' there was a wide range of different individual needs, and it would not be feasible to create a single benchmark for this group. The objectives set out in each individual child's plan would be the benchmark. Parents discussed whether children with special educational needs took the same standard attainment tests as other children, and Mr Potter confirmed that they did.
13. Mr Potter thanked parents for attending the last Parent Forum meeting of this school year. The dates for meetings for next school year would be confirmed in September.