



Parent forum Minutes – Bishops Tawton Primary School

9th February 2022 6pm-7.30pm

Present: MS, EH, SB, SH, KA, AS, LB, JC

MS reviewed the minutes from previous meeting. Communications were considered to be much improved from both parents and teaching staff.

Action: to explain clearly that parents can now move between the top and bottom playgrounds in order to collect children and to speak to teachers at the end of the school day. Parents were wondering how the best way to ask 'niggly' questions that were not necessarily urgent – if possible talking to teachers at the end of the day or make an arrangement to have a phone call if about individual child.

Pre-school parents sometimes want to make a quick call to check on their child. Is there a way that there could be a direct line or linked telephone to enable this?

Action: MS to speak with the EY team and consider how the 2simple app might be used for two way communications

Partnership Update – meet and greet feedback

Note: the time of meeting (5.30pm) was not convenient for some families – this is to be considered when setting the next meeting date when and if Governors decide to move to consultation. Also suggested that a remote presentation be used to enable more families to access.

Parents who had attended the meet and greet fed back to the group. Lots of positive feedback so far, considering the similar ethos of both schools and opportunities to develop staff which in turn impacts positively on children at BTS. Parents are pleased to hear that if a teacher is released to support then a job share/existing teacher is used as back fill – maintaining high quality and familiarity for the children

Note: Where there is a job share the parents would like to know which teachers will be in class each day...to be shared on the class newsletters at the end of this half term – MS is hopeful that there will be less staff absence next half term as a result of isolation rules being lifted.

Reading at home

MS explained that the teachers would like to set up a reward system to support children reading more at home. The idea of winning a raffle ticket after reading 4 times a week was shared – pros and cons discussed

MS asked for the parent forum to gather ideas from others as all concerned were keen to increase reading at home

One suggestion was to include specific reading activities in the home-learning (in addition to reading their set book) Perhaps an expectation that the children complete a book review as part of their homework? Certificates? Reader of the week?

Parents would like to know the protocol currently for children taking books home from school?

Could we set up book swaps again?

Action: MS to discuss with teachers, book week first week back and a good opportunity to boost the idea of reading more at home

Residential Trips

Parents would like the school to offer more residential trips for the children who have not been able to go since the pandemic. In particular in Year 5

Our venue had gone into liquidation so we had used our existing booking that had been used in previous years by Y3 children. MS explained that priority for this venue had been given to the Y6 group as this ensures all children get to go in their last year.

Parents have offered to give up their time to ensure other year groups can go this year. MS explained the high level of risk assessment and responsibility held with the team leader along with the limited capacity of staff able and/or willing to take the responsibility on. The time to investigate and organise trips along with family commitments preventing staff from staying away from home are all factors along with the cost for some families who have been struggling financially needing to be considered (instalments set up over 12-18 months have helped spread the cost, this would not be possible this academic year) Support staff are less willing to hold the responsibility. Parents and volunteers would need to have a DBS check and would not be permitted to be the trip leader. Parents noted that other schools were attending residential this term, MS clarified that our situation is based upon the capacity that we have currently as a school rather than a comparison to what other schools are currently able to offer.

It was noted by parents that there had been increased activities already planned for day trips and visitors so far this year and parents were grateful for this. MS recognised how hard the staff were working and how passionate they are about providing the best learning for the children which is their priority.

Action: MS to go back to teachers/staff to see if there is capacity to arrange and source further residential trips this year and/or to plan for the following year

Snacks/school lunches

Discussion around what constitutes a healthy snack and the quality of school meals
MS suggested a parent working party is set up to look into this. MS will find out from teachers when they are studying healthy eating in the curriculum cycle.

After school cabin club

Cancellation with short notice, what are the possibilities when the cut off time is 2.15
SB suggested emailing the office as this has worked for her.

Date of next meeting TBC