

Parent Forum – 18/11/21

This meeting was held virtually via Teams in light of the ongoing concerns about the safety of the community.

Agenda:

1) Welcome Back

2) How best to recruit members ensuring the full range of ages covered –

It was decided that it would be wise to try to recruit at least one representative from each year group so everyone has a link parent to share ideas with to bring to the meeting. This could act as another point of contact for any parent who may be more confident talking to another parent rather than a member of school staff.

Action: AC to draft a parental letter and check with the current forum members to check if it has the right tone to appeal to all parents. Then send out to all parents/ carers. Then promote the representative names in classroom windows so all parents know who they are.

3) How best do we promote reading at home?

Incentives – it's a tricky balance between needing to practise to improve and it becoming a chore. It can be tricky also for working parents with younger children. If there were incentives e.g. Reader of the Week, termly book voucher rewards etc this may encourage the children to further engage.

Action: AC to share feedback with reading lead.

4) Supporting the local/school community's wellbeing.

We discussed the school's plan to run a community café. This was very well received and we then discussed the partners who we could invite to support differing needs. We discussed how well received it potentially would be and how it could support mental health through socialisation, sign posting and, in the future adult education to change the circumstances of families.

It is frustrating that the project is on hold but partnerships are being formed in the meantime. Worst case scenario we will launch it in the Summer term and hold it outside if Covid restrictions are still in place through the school's risk assessment.

5) Christmas this year.

We discussed the limitations with the risk assessment. As we will not be able to have parents onsite we will be having two performances, EYFS + KS1 and KS2. These will be live streamed via Teams. They will be fairly low key as we are keen to not lose too much curriculum time whilst we are catching up. This was well received as it takes the pressure off parents having to take time off work or feel they need to put themselves at

risk in order to support their children. It was noted that some parents won't be happy but this will be addressed through careful communication stressing the importance of community safety and people not putting their Christmas holidays at risk.

Action: AC to send out a letter explaining the reasons behind the Christmas performance decisions.

6) Communications – Parentmail (thoughts on timings) Twitter.

The concern was about receiving Parent Mails at weekends and in the evenings - was this cutting into people's free time? It was agreed that this was not a problem and that if it is a reminder, they would rather have it so they don't forget. Phone messages are not difficult to access, no change necessary.

Twitter has become a Trust expectation, there were concerns that this was not a platform that was widely used but in understanding that we have been asked to set one up that there could be a link on the website to it to encourage followers.

Action: When Twitter account is activated ensure there is a link on the website.

7) Website feedback ahead of changes/redesign.

We discussed that this is the window to people who do not know Sutton Park. It was thought that we need to sell ourselves to prospective parents. This could be done through testimonials from parents, staff, children (possibly other stakeholders).

Link to Twitter and other useful sites, virtual tour, vision and values, OFSTED reports should all be easy to find.

Action: AC to put out a plea for testimonials from stakeholders to be featured on the website.

8) AOB

We discussed having a meeting every half term to ensure parents have a voice that gets the opportunity to make Sutton Park even better.