

# Parent Forum – 28<sup>th</sup> September 2022

**Attended by:** Sarah Goodchilld (Deputy Head), Charley Eriksen (Parent Governor), Roseveld Nyangoni (Rec), Frankie Boot (Y1 & Y3), Zak Brophy (Y2), Karen Futchter (Y6), Caitlin Ferrara (Y5) and Hannah Lunn (Y4)

## **Agenda:**

1. Feedback from actions of previous meeting
2. Office messages
3. Feedback about club uptake
4. WISPA
5. AOB

## **1. Feedback on previous actions**

### **Communication:**

- Westfield Weekly to be uploaded to the website and the link to be shared rather than PDF sent. *Still being explored as to the best way to upload without using lots of storage space on parents/carers phones and creating extra work for the Office.*
- Explore whether families be able to opt into receiving the Westfield Weekly on paper as they did prior to COVID. *If parents would like paper copies of letters, this can be requested through the Office. All communication will be paperless unless requested otherwise.*
- ALL staff to attend 'Meet the teacher' so to be introduced to parents. *All staff and most Governors attended Meet the teacher on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022*
- Reinstate the buddy system with Y6 and Reception and explore the option of it continuing through the school. *Buddy system has been reinstated with buddies in Y5 & Reception and Y1 & Y6*
- Bulk of information about the trip/experience to be in the main content of the email and consent to be in the form. *Done*
- Identify if parents turn on google receipt or school do. If school do, turn on and if parents do, send out info on how to do so. *Done*
- Explore the use of a google style parent calendar which has class, school and WISPA events on it. Could this be set up with Arbor? *Still being looked into. There is a substantial amount of time needed to set this up with all the information across the classes and various other activities. We will be endeavouring to set this up in time.*
- Clarification of reading records and use of evidence at the start of the year so to clarify and manage expectations. *Communicated through Meet the Teacher and Year group newsletters*
- Explore the use of an online booking system for Parents Evening. *Set up and will be trialled for parents evening in October. Please bear with us with any teething problems*
- September 2022 – communicate the different elements of celebration assembly (values, head teachers, reading certificates, maths wizards) *Communicated through newsletters and Westfield Weekly*

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## Home Learning:

- Share written methods policy with parents and point them in the direction of the method videos. Possibly look into a workshop for the Autumn term. *An email about where to find information regarding Maths resources on the website will be shared in Autumn 1. A Maths workshop will be planned for Autumn 2/ Spring 1.*
- Seesaw subscription to be discontinued when it runs out. *Done*
- Homework policy to be re-written in line with consultation with parents, children and staff ready for September. Policy to include clear information about purpose of home learning and how it will be valued in class. Policy should also clarify expectations of Reading records. *Home Learning policy re-written after consultation with parents, children and staff. Policy is available online and changes were shared at Meet the Teacher and through the Year group newsletters. Some feedback was given (see below) however feedback from parents, staff and children will be gathered after the first half term cycle in November.*
- New spelling scheme to be explored further and consistent approach to spelling across the school. *Twinkl spelling has been introduced across the school. This follows on from our chosen phonics scheme, 'Twinkl phonics'*
- Speak with staff about a consistent approach to homework being given out and deadlines back. *Home Learning is now consistent across the school with new policy in place since September 2022. Feedback re: the changed policy from parents, staff and children will be collected in Autumn 2.*




## AOB

- A nativity for Y1 and EYFS will be planned for
- All Jubilee books were given out before the end of the academic year 2021-2022

## 2. Office messages

- Please can all parents ensure they are set up on Arbor. This is vital as it is where all communication will be transitioning to in the coming months – wise pay will be gone in October and Teacher2Parent will be gone by Christmas. Once on Arbor, you can update all personal information, add permissions and organise dinner payments etc.
- Dinner payments are now all done through Arbor. You are able to pay in advance, see a running total of payments and can make ad hoc choices as to when your child wants to have school lunch or packed lunch. Any chasing for payments will also come through Arbor.
- Please continue to be patient and kind on phone calls with the office. They try their best to be able to answer your questions but may not always have the answers straight away.
- The office opening hours is 8:30-12:30. These are the times they are available for parent facing questions and queries. Below we have detailed the office staff responsibilities and working hours (including non-parent facing hours). Although another member of the office team may be able to answer your question, if it is not their responsibility they may not be able to give you the details you require

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Who	Hours	Responsibility
<b>Denise Arnold</b> 	Monday – All day Tuesday – All day Wednesday - works off site Thursday – All day Friday – All day	Admissions
<b>Gemma Walker</b> 	Monday 8:30-12:30 Tuesday OFF Wednesday All day Thursday 8:30-12:30 Friday 8:30-12:30	Trips Clubs Milk
<b>Debbie Cole</b> 	Monday 8:30-12:30 Tuesday 8:30-12:30 Wednesday 8:30-12:30 Thursday OFF Friday OFF	School Dinners Uniform

### 3. Feedback about club uptake

Parent Forum had been asked to collect feedback about the low uptake on clubs. The following message was circulated to the reps:

“Unfortunately we have had to cancel many of our planned after school clubs (yoga, basketball, drama and music makers) because the uptake was too low and it therefore meant they weren't financially viable for the providers to run. We would really welcome some feedback on why the uptake for these clubs was so low”

The following feedback was given:

- Basketball is for Y3 and Y4 and Y4 already do Basketball on a Wednesday in PE so parents felt they didn't need the club as well.
- If a child goes to Home from Home then you need to pay twice (i.e. for the club and for Home from Home) which isn't financially affordable. However completely understand and appreciate the need to pay twice as using two services.
- Financial pressures make clubs unaffordable
- Children do a number of clubs outside of school
- Lego and Football club clash (Y1/3) – these clubs were desired by many
- The children want to get home. They have spent all day at school and don't want to stay any later.
- Tuesday is a very popular day for clubs, are there more clubs that can happen on other days?

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- Are more clubs available for Reception children?

## 4. WISPA

Karen Fitcher, on behalf of WISPA, shared that due to children moving up through the school and moving on to secondary school, WISPA have a low number of volunteers who are supporting them as part of the committee and also for events. Without volunteers who are able to commit to running cake sales, disco's, summer fair, Christmas fair, parent events etc, the events cannot take place. This impacts the money raised for the school which helps to fund a range of things including experiences for the children, resources for the children and subsidise school coaches.

There is a WISPA website where people can register their interest and commitment in helping.

## 5. AOB

- Request for a Y6 payment schedule for the residential. *Information about this was circulated to Y6 parents on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September.*
- Discussion about why we do cursive handwriting and the change in government expectations. *The government expectation has changed and now children should be taught to print until Y2. We used to teach pre-cursive from Reception to prepare children for joining however this is now not something which should be taught. Children should learn to print and then learn to join in Y2. As Reception learnt pre-cursive last year, this may be continued Y1 however the teacher will assess who is secure with pre-cursive and who will just print. From this year (2022-2023), Reception children will be taught to print.*

*At Westfield we teach the children to join their handwriting using Cursive. Cursive handwriting is joined up handwriting in which the letters are connected to help you write faster. This is an alternative to block-letters, where you lift the pen up between every letter. It can also be called joined-up handwriting.*

- Initial Home Learning Feedback was volunteered from one class who wanted to share how they were finding it. Feedback from all classes will be requested in November for the next Parent Forum once one full cycle of the policy has been completed. It is a half termly cycle.  
*12 parents gave feedback. 7 of these were positive. These parents were enjoying the change to the policy and felt that the home learning now fitted into normal busy weekend family life. There were 5 parents who had questions and concerns which they wanted to raise:*
  - 1. Finding the ideas too vague – Some of the ideas shared are meant to be open so that the child/ family are able to take the home learning in a direction that interests them.*
  - 2. Finding they need to be creative – Let your child take the lead. It may be that a planning session will be needed before you can start one of the activities. If your child is keen to do something, they will have the ideas to share. If not, chose another option.*
  - 3. Having to Google what something is – Googling what something is can be part of the learning. However, when we reflect on ideas shared for next term, if unfamiliar terms are used, where appropriate, some explanation can be given.*
  - 4. Not structured enough – Parents are welcome to do additional work with their children at home. The daily reading, spelling and Maths facts can provide more structure. The*

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*Maths facts can be practised through Times Table Rockstars or other online games. If you would like your child to do further work, the CGP books for your child's age are a great place for more practise at an age appropriate level. These can be purchased online.*

5. *Not preparing the children for secondary – The home learning does change in Y6 to prepare the children for secondary. This is detailed in the policy for this exact reason.*
6. *It's not optional because you won't send your child in without something – There is no expectation for your child to share anything. If you have had another experience or done something else as a family, your child could share this. There are also 6/7 weeks to complete something from the options – previously home learning wasn't optional and there was a weekly expectation.*

School will also be sending out an email to clarify the following things which came up in our Parent Forum discussion:

- Information on what children are working on
- Maths planning
- Links to further practise
- Ideas for extra maths
- Written Methods policy
- Link to Maths videos to show how things are taught