


Parent Forum

Autumn Term 2019

Format


We trialled a new format for the Parent Forum this term. Rather than holding an evening drop-in event, parents were invited to email in their thoughts by a particular deadline. The Headteacher, Deborah Howard, and Communications Manager, Ellie Linton, then met to go through all of the feedback and draw up an action plan accordingly. Messages that require a personal or direct response will be contacted separately.

What's going well/highlights




Parents evening- We like the new format. Much easier when we have several kids. Less running around.

My son is very happy at Oswald road, he enjoys all aspects of learning and feels happy and safe in this




Fake grass near the new Nursery door- Yay! It was unpleasant to have to walk in the mud because the opened door was blocking the pavement. It looks much tidier now!

Board with all the pics of the staff - It a very nice idea and well located.



5JB Class Assembly- Loved it! Format was interesting and we got to interact with the kids. It was lovely!



Shoe and book swap- Brilliant, thank you!

Our son is in year 1, Miss Rice's class, and we want to report back on how happy we are with his experience at school so far. His time in reception (with Mrs Turton) and year 1 so far has been varied, interesting, fun and supportive. He loves going in every day and we love hearing all of his news. His teachers have been creative and kind in the way they've engaged him and kept him interested, even in the bits he's not so keen on. The way they use techniques like singing and colouring to bring everything to life is lovely to see. He is really enjoying the Music, Art and PE carousel in year 1, we think it's fantastic for 5 year olds to have specialist teachers and coaches. Whenever we've had questions or (minor) concerns about his happiness, both Mrs Turton and Miss Rice have been brilliant at listening to us, reassuring and acting on them - we feel confident that his teachers know our son as an individual and know how to inspire and care for him. A special mention to the Lunchtime Organisers too, especially Miss El Bekri and Liz, who are so kind and fun with the children - they all love them! We'd like to thank all the staff for the jobs that they do - it seems like a truly wonderful school.

You said

I and many other parents are concerned about the air quality around Oswald Road School which directly affects the health of the school students. I would like to know how the school plans to address this issue, – for example progress on the green travel plan, supporting greater traffic enforcement, one day road closure etc.

I would like to know what the school plans are for the field of Oz?

Can you advise me whether Year 3 will be losing their afternoon playtime after Christmas and your reasoning for this?

I was wondering what the school policy was on 'screen time' within the classroom?

We did

This is something that we have been trying to tackle with many different methods, such as letters to parents about parking/idling in cars around school, encouraging families to take part in the Big Oswald Road Cycle to School, Rights Ambassadors protesting outside school etc. Our next step will be to meet with the Rights Respecting Team to see what further work can be done on this, in conjunction with local councillor and parents that wish to get involved to support the cause. We are also looking at planting more trees and plants around the border of the playground to help with protecting the children from air pollution from the roads surrounding school.

There are currently no plans to develop the Field of Oz. Unfortunately we are not able to use this resource as much as we would like to as we do not have the staffing levels to take classes over there on a regular basis. This is why we only use it for certain events such as the Nursery and Reception sports day and when staffing allows.

Yes, our school policy is for Year 3 to stop having afternoon play in the spring and summer term, in line with the rest of KS2 who follow this pattern for the full year. You can see the letter that was sent out at the time outlining this policy change by [clicking here](#). Some Key Stage 2 classes do the Daily Mile and some do a less formalised version of this across the year. All classes however have the relax time.

All classes have a large screen which is used for teaching and learning. These are used throughout the day every day. School has recently invested in iPads and the children are gaining regular access to a range of apps to support teaching and learning. We also have an ICT suite which usually is accessed once per week. There will be the odd occasions where children watch a film in school (for example, a reward from their class chart).

You said

Can you explain the new role of 'prefect' recently introduced?

There are two concerns which I would like to raise regarding school meals. Firstly, as I am trying to alter my children's diet, we sit down everyday and I tell them what they can chose from the menu according to each day. However, the menu (according to the planned week) doesn't always go as planned, and my children end up ordering food that I wouldn't necessarily want them to eat. Also, as I can imagine, (correct me if I'm wrong), the school has a large number of vegan students and I feel that the menu should offer more choices to cater for these pupils. For example, deserts and soups.

We did

The prefect role for Year 6 children was introduced this term to replace the House Captains. Year 6 children that wanted to apply to be a prefect had to give a presentation to Mrs Howard, Mrs Iqbal and Mrs Gibson, and three children from each Year 6 class were then chosen for the role. The duties of a prefect are as follows:

- Be a role model for other children and lead by example.
- Promote good behaviour, manners and politeness
- Act as a friend to those who need support.
- Monitor the hallway, playground and hall during assemblies.
- Take responsibility of the end of year school newsletter.
- Report incidents to a member of staff.
- Train and mentor year 5 pupils when they apply to become a Year 6 prefect.
- Helping the office to deliver letters at lunchtime
- Supporting Mrs Howard with tours of the school for prospective parents

EL to speak to the school cook and find out what the vegan options on the menu are and share with parents. If it is needed then this may lead to addition of more vegan options on the school dinner menu next time it is reviewed.

You said

I booked my kids in Hoot Camp over the summer, when the Finance Team were on holiday, and I was told I could pay upon their return in September. I had to chase a few times to make the payment. Some families, like mine, have to keep a tight budget and want to pay when things are spent, not weeks afterwards.

I am strongly against electronic devices being allowed at Hoot Camp (unless if for a child with special needs, of course). If electronic devices are allowed, then the kids playing should be put in another room or in a special corner whilst the others are busy elsewhere.

We sometimes receive letters (on paper or by email) for payments that are still not on Parent Pay. It happened lately with a choir thing. It's frustrating because after having logged in in vain, we have to keep logging in to check if the payment has appeared. I work full time and have no time nor mental space for this!

Christmas performances- It's a shame that both have been scheduled on the same day. I know you probably have good reasons for this but if a parent works on that day, there is no other option to choose from.

I've noticed that some processes can be particularly clunky, especially when parents are asked to complete a slip on the bottom of a letter and believe there are ways to improve and automate this.

I think there is an inconsistency in how the rewards scheme is being used across the school. I know there are raffle tickets but this year I don't think they are being used as much with either of my children this year (yr 5 and yr 2).

We did

We have changed the booking system for Hoot Camp that means that parents need to now pay when they book.

We do allow devices at Hoot Camp, but only at break and lunch. Devices are not allowed when we run activities.

EL to ensure that all items are on Parent Pay, if needed, before sending the letter out to parents.

We have received this feedback from a number of working parents this year, and we will therefore change back to the old scheduling system for next year.

We are trying to make all replies electronic, via Parent Pay etc. Any letters with a reply slip will be given the option to email a response instead. We are also going to be trialling an online bookings system for next term's parents evening.

We will review this with our Behaviour Leads to check consistency across school and address any issues as needed.

You said

Are there any other forms of rewards for them to work towards? Knowing them at home helps so I can encourage them to get them and praise as necessary. My youngest really needs some motivation to engage and more carrots would be great.

We did

Children in Year 1-6 are given raffle tickets for good work or making great behaviour choices. Each Friday afternoon the teacher will pull a raffle ticket out of the class box at random and the child whose name is on the back will get to choose a prize from the class prize box. Each term in the Child of the Term assembly one raffle ticket is picked at random from the box containing all of the tickets for that term from either KS1 or KS2 (as the assemblies are separate). The name of the child on the chosen ticket indicates which class wins the £75 cheque, which they can spend as a class however they wish. Instead of raffle tickets children in Nursery & Reception get dojo points. Other rewards given are mathletes certificates and Rights Respecting Star of the Week certificates, which are given out in assembly each Friday. There is also the 'Child of the Term' assembly, in which each teacher picks one child from their class they feel should win for that term. These children then get to attend the Headteacher's Child of the Term party with Mrs Howard. We also have class charts where children can work as a team to fill their chart with stickers for great manners, lovely movement around school and good lunchtime behaviour. Each time the chart is filled, the class gain a reward.