

Parent Forum Tuesday 4th February 2020

Present – Pat Speed (Head Teacher), Caz Solkin, Helen Clint, Kari Kvamme and Samantha Currie.

Apologies – Heidi Smith

Reviewed minutes from 1.10.19 – only outstanding action was to review after school provision on completion of building works in September 2020. Mrs Speed has continued to keep close relationships with our 2 existing providers Kids Planet and Junior Club of Crosby. They have been in consultation with us on the different stages of building completion to provide the safest routes on and off the premises. Junior Club of Crosby will have direct access down the new path to the Endbutt Lane exit.

Building Works

Feedback from parents/carers has been very positive on the staggered start time of from 8:30am. Congestion for parking has eased, we have had less complaints from residence since the beginning, and the paths and gates have had less bottle necks. Governors will review this to be permanent if budgets, time in the classroom and staffing can be balanced. The end of the day time from 2:55pm will cease on building completion. This is only an option for some of our families who wish to take it up, lessons continue until the normal closure time and children remain in classes, or by the new office area, if parents occasionally run late. Year 1 access through the front of the classrooms may continue at the beginning and end of the day and after the end of the build too.

The priority for the builders are the new classrooms, hall and access to the back entrance via the new internal pathway. The office and kitchens are secondary. This will ensure our children will have as minimal disruption as possible. The builders are ahead of schedule at the moment, may this continue, weather permitting! The impact of the hoardings on the large hall extension was greater than anticipated which sadly caused the Year 1 pantomime to be cancelled.

Year 1 Pantomime – Staff will discuss an alternative showcase provision for the children. It must be curriculum linked. (Maybe splitting the year group, rather than one big production if it can go ahead). Year 1 will look at this.

Year 1 homework mats – These will be reviewed. SLT to take forward with staff. (Marking, feedback to parents & relevance to the curriculum).

Reception Classes – It was suggested to include in the welcome packs or curriculum newsletter the after school clubs that will be available. E.g. Golf and football, that are on set days throughout the academic year. This will allow parent/carers to plan after school provision easier.

Reception PE – This will continue weekly, but maybe outside. November/December was less frequent due to Nativity productions and rehearsals. It is not a statutory requirement in Early Years to have formal PE lessons as they have free flow provision to the outside shared area and Forest School. PE however is great for practicing independently getting changed and taking ownership of their possessions.

Echo Newspaper Primary School Ratings – The paper use their own localised marking system to rate schools in Sefton, Knowsley and Liverpool – This is not an official rating level and schools are unaware how they achieve these marks. Ofsted is the officially recognised, nationwide, government scheme. These detailed documents are available on-line or from the schools direct. This is a much

more standardised and regulated comparison tool for parents/cares to view to make an informed choice of the best school for their child.

<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/21/104926>

Class mixes 2020/21 – Reception's four classes will go into 3, as numbers are still below 90 children. Historically Year 2 into 3 and Year 5 into 6 will mix. Teachers will make the final decisions taking into account boy/girl ratio, friendships, and additional support needed. We will also consider if children have had a job share or disjointed provision before, as far as we possibly can.

Staff absence – We will communicate any long term sickness to parents and always try to ensure that it is a familiar face for long term placement. Sometimes the nature of the illness does not enable us to foresee the length of time the member of staff will be away, so dependent on fit notes, communication can sometimes feel limited.

PPA Cover – Planning, preparation and assessment, is a short allocated time when teaching staff are out of class. This time is covered by Cover Supervisors or additional curriculum specialists e.g. French or music. In reception this is occasionally different where pupils will go into shared areas, another class, or Forest School.

Year 5 relationship education – This is taught following The Journey in Love Programme. (From Reception – Year 6). It is taught in class with boys and girls together. This can be found on-line if parents/carers wish to look at material beforehand.

Head Boy and Head Girl – Parent Forum had a discussion around the pros/cons and decided it was not appropriate in Primary School to single one child's talents/strengths and only rely on them for important jobs and privileges, especially given size of year groups.

Marys Meals – It was agreed it was a wonderful cause/charity but a little expensive to complete a backpack as an individual family. We may look at the different components and make them up collectively in classes or year groups.

Office relocation – While this is going ahead can we please ask parents and carers to be punctual on arrival and departure and to ensure their children have all the necessary equipment and lunch for the day. The temporary premises for the office staff has limited access and waiting area.

Advertising to attract new pupils – As Great Crosby Catholic Primary school is tucked away, it was suggested that we should have more advertising on main roads within the area and utilise Instagram for promoting our unique selling points. Also for those passing, there is no 'shop front' as all our facilities are secure away from the road. Instagram could incorporate # for other companies and service users to reach more people. Forest School is now accessed for Reception classes and Nursery pupils as part of their curriculum which is quite exceptional in our location. Also include our many other curriculum specialities. E.g. music and languages. Head Teacher will look into this with the help of a parent.

28th April 2020 next meeting.