

MINUTES OF KS 1 PARENT FORUM

Tuesday 10 November

1. Feedback on Action Taken following issues raised at the June meeting 2009:

- Childcare vouchers: Busy Bees vouchers are accepted but we can also take other vouchers for Tea-time club if parents request this. Please contact the school office for more information.
- School uniform shop: we apologize for problems which occurred over the summer with items being out of stock. This was as a result of ongoing illness to our shop manager. She has now resigned and has been replaced by Mrs Pollard-Jones who has returned from retirement.
- Parents' handbook: this was completed in the summer term and all parents should have received a copy. The handbook is also available on-line on the school website.
- Consent forms for trips. The form has now been changed so that parents now only need to complete one form at the beginning of the year and just need to let form staff have any updates regarding changes to phone numbers, emergency contacts or medical information

2. SIMS Learning Gateway:

Our IT department is currently working on parents being able to access information about their child from home. Access to school data such as your child's personal details emergency contact information, attendance record, school reports etc, will be available by September 2010 to parents via a secure login. Development of this service will be ongoing and we are open to suggestions from parents about what information they would like to access from home. This will be in addition to and will not replace hard copies of school reports

3. Communications between parents and the class teacher:

Parents can communicate with their daughter's teacher by any of the following methods:

- Talking to the teacher at the beginning or end of the school day. If a longer discussion is needed, this is best at the end of the school day.
- Via the home/school notebook
- By email, either sent directly to the class teacher or via the school mailbox (enquiries@she.gdst.net) and marked for the attention of the class teacher
- Mrs Jones is also available most mornings to speak to in person

4. Teaching methods in Maths and English and how parents can support their children at home

- KS1 Children should have brought home a yellow laminated card which gives advice to parents on listening to their child read.
- Mr Willatt is currently working on producing a leaflet for KS1 parents on how to support your child with Maths.
- Mrs Jones gave a demonstration of how maths is taught in KS1, breaking additions and subtractions into tens and units, counting on and counting back with number lines and explained some of the methods and activities used to reinforce this.
- Phonics are now taught every day in small groups in reception and KS1
- The important thing is for the children not to get anxious about it

5. School/class photographs:

Some parents said they would have liked to have had a form photograph this year and were disappointed in the quality of some of the photos. The photographs had been changed this year because of comments raised at last years' Parent Forum that parents didn't want to have to buy a form photo every year and requested we tried to same photographer used by Birkdale. To try and satisfy everyone we will alternate between photographers each year and have the option of a form photograph

6. Homework:

- Parents of Y1 children commented that it would have been helpful to know in advance what to expect when their daughters moved from reception to Y1.
- Mrs Jones asked if a transition meeting between reception/Y1 would have been helpful and it was agreed that such a meeting should be introduced this year for parents when their daughter are reaching the end of reception. A transition meeting already takes place for parents of girls moving from Y2 to Y3.
- Homework in KS1 is usually reading, finding out together or spellings and is detailed in the home/school notebook
- Mrs Jones will follow up problems which have arisen recently in Y1 spellings

7. Parking

Parking continues to present problems for parents as well as for local residents, particularly on Southbourne Road: Parents should be aware that spaces around the Senior site (Rutland Park, Ash Grove and Clarkehouse Road) are often easier to find and it is only a 5 minute walk to the Junior School, cutting through the Senior School site

8. Road safety on Melbourne Avenue

- Parents are asked to notify Mrs Jones if they notice any Sixth Form girl driving unsafely on Melbourne Avenue and to give details of the car and registration plate. The new Head of Sixth Form will deal with any incident immediately. There is now no parking available for Sixth Form within the school grounds due to building work
- Parents are once again requested not to bring cars onto Melbourne Avenue and to reverse into the school driveways

9. AOB

A parent requested information on what is covered as part of the French curriculum in Reception – Y2. Mrs Jones will follow this up with Mrs Slaughter.

Thank you to all parents who were able to attend the meeting and to all those who submitted items for discussion.