

MINUTES OF KS 2 PARENT FORUM, November 26 2009

1. SIMS Learning Gateway

Ian Guest, our ICT Development Manager gave a short presentation on the SIMS Learning Gateway which will be accessible to parents during the course of next year and will give parents secure access to certain school data held about their child e.g. personal information, attendance, academic performance, timetable, assessment information, medical information, reports. Parents were invited to let the school know of any other information they would find useful to be able to access from home.

2. Feedback on action taken since the June Parent Forum

- a) Road safety and parking: Please would parents notify the school office immediately of the car registration plate if they notice any sixth former driving too fast or carelessly on Melbourne Avenue. Mrs Dunsford will follow this up with the girl concerned and her parents. Please would parents also alert Mrs Jones or Mrs Dunsford to any problems encountered with residents over parking so these can be raised at the residents' committee meeting. Residents have also been asked to alert the school if they encounter problems with rudeness from parents. Junior parents have been advised to try parking at the lower end of the senior site (Rutland Park/Ash Grove), and then walk to the Junior School through the grounds of the senior school.
- b) Uniform shop opening hours: we apologise for problems with stock and opening hours last summer. This was due to the illness of our Uniform Shop Manager. Our former shop manager, Mrs Pollard-Jones, has agreed to come out of retirement to take on her former role.
- c) The Parents' Handbook is now available on line through the school website

3. Uniform issues:

- The cost of items of uniform was queried and questions raised about the mark up on uniform. Mrs Pollard-Jones will continue to research suitable suppliers to ensure the best quality but also best value items of uniform. As the uniform shop runs as an enterprise separate to school, all costs relating to the shop, (i.e. salary of uniform shop manager, electricity, services etc) have to be included in the cost of the uniform.
- A jade cardigan has been requested, we are awaiting a sample before orders are placed.
- A request was made for either extending the shop opening hours/days during busy periods in the summer holidays and this will be taken into account next summer.
- Appointment times were suggested for new parents who need to buy a full set of uniform.
- Itemised bills were requested. The till does not unfortunately produce these but we will look into price labelling each piece of uniform individually so parents can check items off against the bill.
- Some problems seem to have arisen with orders placed over the summer which have still not been received. These will be followed up.

4. Waterproof Sports tops for matches

- A request was made for girls playing in sports fixtures to have waterproof tops to keep them dry at fixtures. The school already has a set of tops which will be provided for the girls in wet weather.

5. School meals/vegetarian options:

- Some of the older juniors have commented that they are not always allowed seconds when they ask. This will be followed up with the catering staff.
- Vegetarian options: a hot vegetarian meal and jacket potato or pasta with vegetarian topping is available every day along with a salad option. Parents are always welcome to come in and sample the food any lunchtime but please contact Mrs Jones so she can escort you!

6. New School Hymn book:

Girls may use either the old or the new hymn book this year by September 2010 all girls will need the new hymnbook

7. Individual and Form Photographs

Tempest photographers were used this year following requests at last year's autumn Parent Forum for a change. We have received several requests this year to change back to our previous photographer and we will look to alternate each year to try to satisfy all requests. There will be a year group photograph this year for Y6 but no other form photographs. Form photographs will be available again next academic year

8. Class contact details

Our Data Protection policy does not allow us to distribute class contact details to parents giving out telephone numbers and addresses of other parents. However, if parents are happy to share their details with each other this can be organized among each other

9. Languages Provision

Mrs Dunsford explained the rationale behind our policy of offering 3 languages, (French, Spanish and German) in the Infants and Juniors rather than the continuity of one language. This is in line with the national primary language strategy to give the girls a broad experience of languages to help them make an informed choice when they enter the Senior School of which language they would like to continue with

10. Wind band

A parent enquired why the wind band do not perform publicly in concerts and at the Carol Service in the same way that Spaghetti Strings do. As the wind band has recently been re-formed, they will be working towards public performances, beginning with performing in assembly next term

11. Lost Property

Mrs Raine now has responsibility for all lost property and does her best to reunite lost named property with its rightful owner at the end of each week. Parents may come into School to check the lost property bin any day of the week. Mrs Raine is still dealing with a large number of un-named items or items whose name has been washed off. Please could school coats be named under the collar and please check regularly that your daughter is wearing her own coat!

12. Gritting paths

The caretakers do their best to grit all paths around the school site in icy weather but this takes time, given the size of the school campus. A parent suggested having a handrail and we would be happy to look into this if parents could suggest which areas/drives would be best served by a handrail.

13. Flooding on Melbourne Avenue

The drains on Melbourne Avenue often struggle to cope with heavy downpours and flooding can occur suddenly. The caretakers work hard to keep the drains clear of fallen leaves and to help the flow of water during sudden downpours, but unfortunately we are not always able to prevent this happening because of the nature of the Victorian drainage system

14. Instrument Storage

A request was made for an alternative place other than the no.4 music room, to store musical instruments if a pupil has her lesson in the Senior School music practice rooms. Instruments can be stored in the practice rooms or pupils can collect their instrument at break or lunchtime or if her lesson is before break she can keep it with her until the lesson.

15. School Transport

- A bus from Hathersage is still under consideration.
- A parent asked whether there was sufficient demand for a minibus to take girls into the city centre after school. This will also be followed up in the Senior School.
- A park and ride system from local areas will again be considered.

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