

WORKING TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE OUR BEST

Dear Parents and carers,

Thank you to all parents /carers who have contacted us following our last meeting and to those who have raised further points for discussion. We have recently had our fourth meeting and would like to report back to you.



**Update on Leading Parent Partnership Award (LPPA)**

The school have already been visited by three assessors who spent a whole day thoroughly examining what the school has achieved so far. They were very impressed with the parent voice forum and by the information we are planning to give to new parents in the form of parent information packs. As a result other schools have been in contact asking for advice on how to start their own parent voice forum. All feedback from the assessors has been good so far. Suggestions for further progress were made and they will visit again in March 2010.

The school has updated its anti-bullying and behaviour policies. These have been approved by Ofsted. We are planning on producing small leaflets summarising these policies shortly.

**Parent/Carer Booklet** – You should shortly be receiving a copy of our new Parent/Carer booklet. We hope you find it useful and informative. Our aim is to provide as much information about our school as possible in a format that you can keep and refer back to.

**Christmas Plays** – Your ticket requests have now been collated and six services will be fully attended. Thank you for your support as we try a new way of celebrating Christmas as a school. Our main aim is to create a festive family atmosphere. We may be asking for your help with readings etc nearer the time.

**The Harvest Production** by year 2 went well has received positive feedback. Once we have completed a whole year we will be able to gauge how the new arrangements are working.

**New Lunchtime Arrangements** – Generally feedback has been very positive. There have been a couple of concerns raised by parents regarding whether there is the children have enough time to finish their food. To help with this Mrs O’Keeffe-Pullan has meet with the Lunchtime Supervisors and made changes regarding when the children say grace etc to ensure all children get a suitable amount of time to eat.

## Your comments since our last meeting

You said:

- Great homework suggestions especially spellings book and homework book
- New House System - great for team work and sense of achievement.
- Good to hear lunchtime is being moved to the hall.
- Looking forward to the review of reception intake.
- Parents evening - Well organised. The written report and predictions made discussion more focused.
- Parents evening - Governors did a good job in the hall but tea and coffee could have been better promoted.
- Thank you for enabling year 2 to attend forest school.
- Well done Parent Voice for bridging parents and school.
- Thank you for your hard work Parent Voice.

There are also a number of points that have been raised by parents that we would like to ask for your input/suggestions:

**Playground Congestion at 3 pm** - At school pick up time the playground is very busy and it can be difficult for children and parents/carers to find each other. In addition concerns have been raised again about safety regarding the trim trail and the amphitheatre. There are often pre-school children playing on these and whilst their safety remains the responsibility of the parents it was felt we should again alert parents to the dangers. Any suggestions on how we could re-organise this time of day would be appreciated.

**Car Park Safety** - As well as the car park becoming very congested there is a problem with very poor visibility at the corner of the pavement near the church. The hedge and car park are council property so any suggestions to ease the situation would depend on their approval. We discussed possible solutions during our meeting, including an 'in and out' system with another exit on to the lane created close to the school gates. We are hoping to speak to the council and in the meantime we welcome any ideas you may have to try and improve safety.

**Does the school do enough to cater for working parents?** - We understand that this is important for many of our parents. We know that it is hard when work prevents you from attending school events. We realise that giving as much notice of events as possible is very important and hope that the diary of school events goes some way to helping. If you can think of other ways to help tackle this issue please let us know.

**Feedback on Parent's Evening** - We would like to ask parents for any more comments regarding parents evening, the display in the hall etc...

**Mixing up classes annually/at end of key stages** - The possibility of changing the classes round each year throughout the school has been raised by one of the parents. We realise that doing this would create a very mixed response. We would like to ask for your opinions on the pros and cons. We have thought of a few to start you off and look forward to hearing your views:

**Pros**

The reception area is already very mixed and therefore the children are used to being with their whole year group.

It allows unhealthy friendships to be dealt with.

The children are mixed for maths and spellings from year 3 onwards.

If they are used to being with new classes it will aid their transition to middle school.

If we were to do this the school would aim to ensure that each pupil was able to stay with at least one friend of their choice, and the transition period would be carefully planned. Please let us know what you think.

**Nominations for Parent Voice** - We will soon be looking to recruit new members as we approach the end of the first year of the PV forum. We will certainly be looking for parents of reception children and possibly from other year groups also. We will be asking for nominations in the spring term. If you would like to get involved please contact us. If you are interested you could come along to a meeting to see what happens.

Please fill in a feedback form so we can hear your views or feel free to contact us directly on the playground or by e mail. We will be meeting again on the 19<sup>th</sup> November.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Sonia Mound for all of her hard work in helping to set up the Parent Voice and her role as Year 3 representative. Sonia has taken up the role as Vice Chair of the PTA and therefore has stood down from Parent Voice to allow another parent to become involved. Thank you Sonia.

Many thanks for your continuing support,

Parent Voice

**Cons**

It can be unsettling especially for shy less confident children.

It is a shame if good friendships are split up.

It best not to disrupt happy children.

## Contact Details

Year Group	Name	email
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Year 1	Helen Smith	richel.smith@tiscali.co.uk
Year 2	Janet Staley	J-Staley@sky.com
Year 3	Sue Foster	suedavidfoster@yahoo.co.uk
Year 4	Tabitha Bailey	Tabitha.pike@btinternet.com
Year 4	Holly Gill	holly@richandhol.co.uk
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