



Parent Forum Meeting

3rd October 2023 – 9am

Mrs S Waller, Mrs S Leaf & Mrs S Sterrett

Minutes of the St Nicholas Parent Forum meeting held at the school

Prior to the meeting, the date for the parent forum meeting was sent out on the September newsletter with reminder text messages, inviting parents/carers of all children to attend.

29 Parents in attendance

1. Introductions

Mrs Waller welcomed parents to the first parent forum of the academic year, introducing Mrs Leaf (head of School) and Mrs Sterrett (Administration Assistant). Mrs Waller spoke about how St Nicholas has an open door policy and that parents are welcome to pop into school at any time to speak to us about any concerns or suggestions they may have. This could be a telephone call, a discussion with the class teacher or they can pop into the office.

2. Points for consideration

2.1 Communication The first point raised by parents was the issue of the various platforms of communication, which the school uses, and that there are too many different methods or that messages are received across the various platforms, sometimes over complicating or conflicting information.

Mrs Leaf explained the different methods currently in use by the school and how these should be used to minimise any further confusion. Mrs Leaf also suggested putting this information on a letter or the newsletter to make it clear how best to use these channels effectively. We would also aim to make sure that the same message is sent via Teachers2Parents and Dojo so that parents are not receiving conflicting messages.

Action – develop a clear method for communicating information to parents and make parents aware of how this should be used going forward.

2.2 Attendance & non-uniform The introduction of non-uniform days was raised by parents, with being the current incentive for children, to help improve individual, class and whole school attendance. This is something which has worked really well across our Academy Trust, and as St Nicholas has a high rate of PA (persistent absenteeism), we have introduced this to raise awareness and help encourage children to achieve higher attendance. Children with siblings in other classes are often struggling with this as they feel even though they may have an individual attendance of 100%, their class isn't always getting the opportunity to come in non-uniform.

Mrs Leaf explained how being a PA affects the individuals, with Mrs Waller explaining the importance of school attendance and how the school is accountable for improving attendance. The legalities of recording school attendance, coding of absences correctly on the register and the timing of when the register closes.

Action – To look at half termly rewards for 100% individual attendance so these children are rewarded in some way. To look at how long term medical conditions requiring more hospital appointments or more periods of absence can be considered as a factor. To also look at the possibility of collecting children who are unable to attend due to certain circumstances

Parent suggestion A way forward could be a parent support group / WhatsApp where they may be able to help other parents who may be struggling, by collecting or dropping off children between school and home. This would be a possibility to coordinate with other parents.

2.3 FS2 Bathroom Cleanliness A parent of an FS2 child raised a point that she had found the FS2 toilets to be dirty / untidy and out of supplies, upon having to take her child back into school to use these facilities. This was at the end of the school day before the cleaning staff had had a chance to carry out their evening checks.

Action – FS2 Staff to carry out monitoring checks throughout the day along with the cleaning staff ensuring these facilities are clean and stocked for the start of the school day.

2.4 School Meals Provision Parents are unclear how the meals system and meal portions work. Parents with children with severe allergies or dietary requirements commended the provision from NYES and the measures they have in place to ensure their children's dietary requirements are met.

Action – Check what snacks are provided by ASC. Organise 'Eat with your child' event. Opportunity to restart with Golden Table reward. Children to be reminded of lunchtime protocols.

2.5 Flex Dance The issue was raised if children were able to have a break to drink & eat a snack during Flex Dance, as they may need this after the school day

Action – To speak with the instructor and put this in place.

2.6 Diary Dates Census day, Vision Screening and Flu Vaccines. Discussion took place about the school trip being on Census day and the impact on the UFSM uptake. School packed lunch was offered to the class on the trip this day. Parents questioned if both vision screening for FS2 and whole school flu vaccines would take place, with some parents wishing to opt children out of flu vaccines.

Action – Agreed school packed lunches for children on a trip on census day. Diary dates letter to be emailed to Parents. Office to email Flu Vaccine eConsent link out to parents when it arrives and make note of the wishes of those parents who did not wish their child to have the vaccine.

2.7 Languages Parents asked about the teaching of languages in school, with Mrs Leaf explaining that Spanish is taught from year 3 upwards. St Nicholas have also been investing in some books in a varied range of languages to support the learning for children who's first language may not be English.

Action – Continued support with learning languages from Year 3 with additional resources for children who speak little English.

Parent suggestion Some parents said that they would be able to support with this by bringing in some books that that no longer use at home in Romanian and Polish.

2.8 Extra Curricular Activity Clubs are to be offered on a rotation basis for all year groups with all pupils getting the opportunity to sign up for these. These clubs offer a wide variety of activities for the children and run along side Tigers Trust clubs and Flex Dance. Children discuss which activities they would like to do in the pupil voice. St Nicholas after school club is also available as a paid childcare option for parents if they are working.

Action – Details of clubs to be sent out to parents each term and updated on the school website. Clubs continue to be on a rotation basis.

2.9 School Uniform Clarification sought about children wearing red polo / t shirt as part of the standard school uniform. Children's uniform also becoming spoilt when they are painting. Mrs Leaf suggested the use of using an old oversize / parents shirt as a protective apron. Mrs Waller also spoke about the importance of children wearing uniform as a measure that children all look the same and no child is singled out wearing fashionable /casual clothing for school. With black shoes which are safe and appropriate for the children to wear throughout their day.

Action – Clarification on the red polo shirts

2.10 Music Lessons Many parents spoke about participation in music lessons which is a topic that was raised previously at a parent forum. Mrs Leaf explained the current arrangements with the music service, with individual sign up to lessons costing £60 per term (approx.. £5 per lesson) and that children are participating in the wider ops throughout year 4 and having the option to carry on individually with percussion in year 5.

Action – Continued partnership with Hull music service to ensure opportunities are given to children wishing to continue or learn a musical instrument

Mrs Waller and Mrs Leaf thanked parents for their attendance and for their contributions. A time for the next Parent Forum Meeting would be arranged and parents would be notified of this

Action - Next Parent Forum Meeting TBC