

We held Parents' Voice over four sessions at different times of day and one session in the ESOL class.

We asked parents to talk about two main subjects, but also anything else they wanted to let us know about.

In total we had 25 parents attend.

COMMUNICATION

'Primary school is much better at communicating than secondary school'

How do you want the school to communicate with you?

- Text message
- Newsletter – paper
- Parents meetings (we like these the best)
- WhatsApp
- Electronic noticeboard
- Website
- Parent voice
- Email
- Email more specific items to individual parents especially those who do not come into school regularly
- Ongoing small things need communicating – how do we do this with parents we don't see regularly?
- It's hard for working parents who never get a chance to see teachers after school
- When children are in groups such as working with Jane – how is this communicated? Also consider what curriculum is missed when this happens

- Texts work well – but sometimes it's on the day – a few days in advance would be more helpful
- With more notice – things get sprung on us

What information would you like to support your child's learning at home?

- Everyone comes to parent meetings – that's good
- ESOL classes help us
- Feedback from teachers at home time is good
- Parent meetings give the MOST useful information
- Week to week about what is going on in class – not just half-termly
- Encourage patterns of learning outside of school (homework etc)
- Be useful to have homework to know what child has been doing – perhaps as weekend optional ?
- A homework book to practise and repeat what is done in the classroom especially as all secondary schools do homework and it may be a shock
- Maths homework would be good each week to know what has been done that week.

What information is important to you?

Some parents said 'I know what is happening in school'

'Sometimes I call and no-one answers the phone'

- Want more about personal well-being
- Accident letters

- Behaviour of my child
 - Child's progress
 - Like Golden Book postcards
 - Trip information
 - Homework information
 - Reading book information
 - Information about parties
 - New parents find the reminders useful
- Dates further in advance
 - Policies in consultation – at draft stage
 - PTA portal
 - Pictures of what the children have done
 - Worksheets for optional homework
 - Admissions could have been clearer
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Should we send off electronic copies of the newsletter only – becoming paperless?

- Some parents said they don't have email
- Some said they couldn't find the website
- Some prefer paper
- Newsletter emailed but keep key dates on paper – or fridge magnets!
- Important messages should still be in print
- Use email – don't need paper
- Don't need printed newsletter

What should be included on our new website?

- Phone app would be useful
- Reminders for trips and parents evening
- Teachers' names and classes
- Holiday dates and school closure days
- Content in languages other than English

THE CURRICULUM – Preparing children for the 2030s what should we be doing now?

Reading? How do we encourage children to keep doing it?

‘the daily reading and writing a sentence everyday has been a brilliant thing to introduce’

‘20 mins of reading and writing a sentence works great for us’

- Encourage ‘gateway reading’ ie comics
- Book clubs
- Record books are great – they make children read and we enjoy the teachers comments
- My child doesn’t read on their own to fill their record book
- My child forgets to change their book – needs reminding
- Boys never want to read – girls more so. A reading club for boys.

What kinds of visits and experiences do you think enrich the curriculum?

- Make more of the East End including places like the Ragged School Museum, Sutton House, Docklands Museum
- The Early Years seem to go on more trips, KS2 need more.
- Make sure the trips are interactive
- Places where they can see real science
- Match fun visits to the curriculum
- Behind the scenes – Parliament; an engineer in a sewage works; doctor/nurse/administrator in a hospital
- Shadowing areas of interest/workplaces

- Theatre, park, library, seaside
- Swimming, football – other sports

What will the most important skills be?

- Creativity – in the age of robots this is most important
- Dance, singing, physical activity – links with mental health
- Business stories – children setting up their own businesses – entrepreneurial skills
- Curiosity
- Experimenting
- Confidence – this is also created by knowing the basics
- Teamwork, collaboration and communication
- Social responsibility – such as the shoeboxes, Sport Relief and making sure they understand why we do these things
- Confidence in written/spoken English – more creativity with this such as class newspaper
- Flexibility/agility – thinking their way through a problem
- Life skills – i.e. using a washing machine

What should we be teaching?

‘enjoying is also important’

- The environment and issue – plastics, energy, air pollution
- In geography – creating a curiosity about the world
- Exploring and being curious applies to all subjects
- Important to keep art fun
- Let them practise all the subjects – play instruments, dance and go outside.

- WW2 was a very interesting topic for Year 5 also teaches them compassion and sensitivity
- Link to the news and what is real and current
- Languages – home and community too
- Handwriting/typing skills
- How to code
- Make it fun so they want to do it outside school
- Interdisciplinary areas
- Video production
- Computer skills – design and engineering
- New materials and ways of using them
- Practicing people skills – a day at work/role-play
- Cooking
- Behaviour is important – in school and in families – treating each other well and with respect

What should we be doing to ensure their well-being in an on-line world?

- Guidance on screen time
- Constructing boundaries
- Teaching respect of themselves
- Teaching the difference between real and fake news
- Kids in charge of safety – give them responsibility
- Remind them and show examples of unsafe on-line practices
- Use parental blocks and check what they are doing

GENERAL COMMENTS

- The school cares for children
- £5 limit for trip contributions
- Need a homework club
- The extra support my child gets in class is good
- We like Golden Clubs
- Happy with the new signing in – it makes the school safer
- Coding club really helped my child when they went to secondary school
- The playground is too small – take them to the park
- Don't like the sand pit – the EYFS playground is dangerous

KEY MESSAGES:

Dates further in advance

Some parents do want homework – but not all

Text messages a few days in advance

Email newsletter with paper option available from office

Key dates on paper

The daily reading project has been a real success

The curriculum needs to be broad and interesting