

BRAMPTON PRIMARY SCHOOL - PARENT FORUM –

DATE: 2 nd May	
Comments/ questions	Response from SLT
<p>1. Welcome</p> <p>2. Introductions</p> <p>3. Protocol for the meetings (H&S, Not for individual concerns)</p> <p>4. Open to the parents for celebration of what we are doing well and what we can do to be even better</p> <p>5. Ofsted Parent View</p> <p>AOB</p>	<p>We want to thank the parents who attended and the parent who emailed in. We feel that the feedback was extremely useful and constructive.</p>
<p>Welcomed the parents.</p> <p>Parent Forum turnout – parents have shared that they are quite content and if they want to share anything they will approach SLT directly. We will continue with the Parent forum...</p>	<p>This was discussed again at this meeting.</p> <p>We are going to explore having ‘parent reps’ for each year group to attend a meeting with SLT. Therefore, one-half term we will have Parent forum still open to all parents and the second half term we will meet with Year Group Parent/ Carer Reps. Agendas agreed upfront.</p>
<p>Actions from Previous Meeting</p> <p>Educational visits –</p> <p>The names of parents who are willing to help and support as we can then contact those parents first.</p> <p>We will review our procedures for visits – guidance for teachers/parents when inside the museum/ centre.</p>	<p>This is ongoing</p> <p>Miss Reay is now leading Educational Visits and is reviewing the policy and procedures.</p>

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<p>Communication Could school look into simplifying their communication systems, as at present parents currently receive messages from: Emails Texts Letters Phone calls</p> <p>Attendance</p> <p>School lunches – children last do not get the same choice, takes too long to serve</p> <p>Mrs Reay to ensure books are checked by librarian before sent home.</p>	<p>Pleased to share that two parents receiving information about their child has been set up. Parents through IRIS let the school know about absences is also working well. Our parents have adapted well to the new systems.</p> <p>Mr Wedgbury is now leading Attendance and will be reviewing the reward system to include 100% attendance and any child who has only had authorised absences.</p> <p>New system now in place. Teething problems – bands are being delivered so that the kitchen can be sure that the children are getting the option they ordered.</p> <p>Completed</p>
<p>Open to the parents for celebration of what we are doing well and what we can do to be even better</p>	
<p>- Suggestion made by parent – via email Environment and environmental commitment: organise 4 x year (to coincide with seasons, linked to school curriculum in EYFS) a school litter picking in Brampton Park and turn it into a competition perhaps with an award/recognition ceremony at the end of the year? In collaboration with Newham Council to lend tools and perhaps launch a</p>	<p>These are all great ideas, and we will be exploring further.</p>

<p>reuse/recycle art campaign and project whose artwork could be displayed at the local or school library.</p> <p>Love your planet and the place you live in: organise more paper and collage workshops and reuse thrash workshops, perhaps in collaboration with Newham Council and the local Red Door Studios? (they have given funds this past year for a similar initiative, we attended a session led by a former Brampton Primary pupil). Turn artwork into an end-of-year exhibition?</p> <p>- Take pride in your school and environment: create a gardening workshop or after-club so that children are taught to look after their school and their spaces and also learn about flowers and seasons, the cycle life of plants, terrain, and water and then create little planters gardens and side gates planting/weeding by groups with a voting best garden in spring. Parents to volunteer their time too if allowed</p>	<p>We already have a gardening club and we have secured a grant to pursue a project around growing vegetables. More details will be shared as the project progresses.</p>
<p>1. Parents would appreciate examples of how to complete the maths work – what strategies are we using in school?</p> <p>Homework examples: raised in previous forum, it would be helpful to always include an example of how the teacher would like homework to be executed, especially for maths homework. Numbots is great but lots of screen time, would be great to link homework to weekly curriculum. Parents don't always received</p>	<p>We discussed the following ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • through curriculum meetings per year group, • maths workshops and one-page 'how to do guides'. • Need to promote again the maths parent portal <p>Mr Wedgbury to look into this further with the maths team.</p>

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<p>printed homework sheet and it's now always uploaded on Team or done on a Friday for all to access.</p>	
<p>Ensure dates are on the website for 22-23 and 23-24 and they are clear. - Update and notify in advance about terms dates and school closure. In 2022 parents were not notified that the last day of term had been changed and discovered this by chance; we struggled with the news the school was going to close a day earlier than planned. Parents would need to know at the start of the year or by Easter at the very latest when the school term ends and when the new following term starts in order to arrange for childcare in advance accordingly. The website should be updated but would be helpful for calendar date changes or updates notified in the newsletter/messages to ensure it reaches all parents.</p>	<p>Mrs Hardie has checked and has ensured that the dates are clear on the website and the calendar.</p>
<p>Communication – have parents who want just one method of communication and others who want letters, texts and emails. Have got the facility now for 2 parents to be the main contact.</p> <p>Consolidate parents' communications into 1 channel only; so great to see an improvement on this. Perhaps if using 3 channels it may be a good idea to make it mandatory for parents to update electronically their details for the one vehicle chosen upon school registration or at the start of the academic year to ensure everyone is on board and their details are up to date in the school database. Meanwhile may be helpful to ensure the same communication is distributed across the current 3 vehicles to ensure most parents</p>	<p>Yes, this is now completed</p> <p>It is very hard to please all parents as some parents have expressed, they like the various ways of communication. We will explore this further as a Senior Leadership Team but for the moment will remain as it is.</p>

<p>actually receive it. Unsure if there was a questionnaire being shared to select and determine a preferred channel voted by parents as seen in previous agendas.</p>	
<p>2. Further strike action – create a link that leads to an explanation on the website that is in more detail. - Strikes and informing parents the day of: it is a system that only put additional strain and stress on parents and very unorthodox. Every other child in the borough and their families knew if the school was open or closed in advance; parents can't be asked to wait for a text to arrive at 8.43 on the day of to see whether they can go to work or they need to lose it because of the way school handle such situations repeatedly. This adds unrequited, unnecessary stress to an already stressful matter</p>	<p>Why did you just not close the school?</p> <p>While we fully supported those teachers and staff that decided to strike, it was incumbent on us to ensure that, where we could, we continued to provide access to education for our pupils. Due to the legal framework set out in the <i>School Teachers Pay and Conditions Document</i>, though schools can ask, staff do not have to inform leaders about whether they are striking. Therefore, only had the full picture at 8.30am in the morning. Our core function, regardless of the position we hold on the strike action, is to educate children. It is also important to note that not all our teachers belong to the NEU – the only union with the mandate, at the time, for strike action. We could not, therefore, decide to close the school knowing that there was the possibility of not being able to fulfil our main duty, despite having the teachers available to do so. As I am confident you can understand, it was a decision that requires a lot of deliberation; having discussed it with headteachers across the borough, it was clear that whatever decision was made, it would not have pleased everyone. We also made it very clear that all absences were authorised leaving the decision ultimately with the parents/carers to send their children in. This we hoped alleviating some pressure .</p> <p>By doing the partial opening you exposed who was striking and who was not?</p> <p>We were clear at the time, and remain so, that the process we followed appropriately balanced the need to fulfil our core function, while protecting teachers' privacy. At no point did we list classes or directly name individuals, therefore exposing staff. As stated above, not all teachers are part of the NEU and classes on the day may have been open or closed due to staff's decision on striking, being in a different union, having appointments, or being off for sick leave. Again, the decision that we made was the result of careful consideration, after weighing up all the factors.</p>
<p>3. - Currently parents' emails still go answered whether addressed to the office or as messages to teachers on Teams. It was included in the previous agenda, would be great to received feedback on step to make this into a more efficient system</p>	<p>We were not aware of this, and no such query or complaint has been raised with any of the office team or the senior leadership team. However, we will review the system in order to ensure that all messages are responded to.</p>

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<p>- Uniform: the school bag is lovely but outdated, not practical at all for young children and bad for their backs and posture. We understand school logo items are very important especially when used during educational trips; it'd be great to give the option to parents to purchase a school's logo backpack with side pockets for water bottles, we can share picture examples from other school's backpack options</p> <p>Should we change our bags?</p>	<p>We will be reviewing the school bag. Any suggestions will be appreciated.</p>
<p>How will choir work next year?</p> <p>- Choir: we all parents and children, love the choir and Mr Kenneway work and dedication. it would be helpful to have a section on the website to explain how enrolment and selection work to be part of the school choir, dates, and program; the admin team was not able to provide any support/information and by including information in one place parents can obtain them easily and independently saving teachers and admin staff's time</p>	<p>This is something we are exploring.</p>
<p>Attendance – can we send out a breakdown of attendance each half term – this will allow mistakes to be rectified sooner.</p> <p>Medical evidence – can we give information for parents on how to provide this if they have not been able to see a doctor, e.g. if the pharmacy has confirmed chicken pox. Can the wording of the letter be looked at – e.g. if absence has been authorised for medical reasons should it have the paragraph about falling behind?</p>	<p>Mr Wedgbury with the Attendance Officer will be looking into this further for September 2023.</p>

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<p>Attendance and letters: it'd be great to include a record of absences alongside letters for attendance percentage or at the end of the first term send and create parents' workshop and/or share clear instructions on register times/how to request and amend and read a record etc. at the start of the year. When mistakes are made it should not be left to the end of the year for parents to realise, address and rectify - the calendar on MyEd is a good tool but not up to date nor should take months for the school to investigate and reply</p>	
<p>Finalise 30 hour nursery information asap. - there is news circulating on local groups saying that Brampton may be offering 30h nursery placements next year; it would be great news and if so, parents would love to receive communication and information coming from the official source</p>	<p>This is something that we have been looking into and the logistics. We will first offer to parents who have part- time places. If there are still places, then we will be advertising to the wider community. This will be widely advertised next year.</p>
<p>Catering; thanks for looking into concerns and suggestions parents shared previously. Hopefully the new system will allow all kids to have an option they are able and comfortable to eat regardless whether they go to lunch last.</p> <p>Lately we raised concerns with the teachers that the hot food was served cold for 2 weeks in a row and inedible before the Easter holiday break; this is a worry for health and safety, we hope this was addressed and that it was an isolated problem now resolved</p>	<p>Please be assured that the food is being checked regularly and we encourage the children to share with adults any concerns that they may have.</p>
<p>Can we organise a holiday club for children? The local one that parents use is being shut down.</p>	<p>This is something that we are exploring and looking into further.</p>

We rely on breakfast and after school clubs; so thanks for providing a service without which we could simply not be able to have a job without. the staff is lovely and kids have a really great time (so greay to see arts and crafts done for Easter or Mother's Day). Unfortunately East Ham has no longer any childcare provisions or options suitable for working parents during half terms and holidays now that we lost the one only option BDCA (Bobby Downs) which is closing the service as of July 2023. We working parents are left with no suitable options to cover regular working hours of 9-5pm + transport at this time and are desperate for help as traveling to another borough is costly, not child or environmentally friendly and ultimately makes it hard if not impossible for working families with children to live in Newham and East Ham in particular. Would Brampton Primary not consider running or hosting a company that can run half term and holiday clubs? The PTA is wonderful news, perhaps this could also be a way to fund it by renting the grounds and some spaces to support Brampton and East Ham children.

There is demand which is increasing, desperately so now that we have been left with literally no childcare option whatsoever. We feel there is an opportunity to be tapped and perhaps a way to bring some funds to the school whilst supporting the local and the school own community.