



Barley Lane Primary School

Parent Forum Minutes

19th May 2023 – Junior Hall

Email: parentforum@barleylane.redbridge.sch.uk



In attendance:

Staff: Mr Henry (Headteacher)

Parents: approx. 15 parents attended

Notes	Actions
<p>1. Welcome and Actions from the previous meeting Mr Henry thanked parents for joining. A number of agenda items had been emailed in advance.</p> <p>Actions from previous meeting in Spring Term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Warm Space Provision: school considered warm space provision requested in January. Capacity and space restrictions along with staffing and safeguarding considerations meant that this year, it could not be provided but we will consider it in the coming year. - Curriculum Working Party: We will consider a Summer 2 meeting for parents, otherwise it will resume in the autumn term when our new curriculum focus priorities have been decided - Contextual and Community Safety: There was a focus week of action and monitoring in the spring, carried out by the local safer neighbourhood police and council. The toilets remained open during this week unfortunately, despite assurances that they would close for monitoring. We have approached Cllr Johal for an update and remain vigilant. - Debating Club: We appointed an external company to run debating club in spring based on parent requests for one. The quality of provision was a concern and we fed this back to the club providers. The club is no longer running and we will look into hosting an internal debating club next year. 	
<p>2. Parent Consultation Meeting attendance</p> <p>This was added to the agenda by the school, in response to a poor attendance rate at parent consultations. 63% appointments made, of those only 88% of parents attended the meetings which meant that 12% did not turn up. Parents were asked for their views on why this might be, and what we could do to improve. Some parents felt that in-school meetings would be better as parents would have the opportunity to visit classrooms and look at books. Some preferred the option of having zoom and a suggestion for hybrid model was made.</p>	<p>School to survey parents in the autumn term about preferences for parent consultations and consider returning to in-school meetings</p>

<p>3. Uniform A parent emailed an agenda item with concern about the number of children wearing incorrect school uniform and the impact this has on other children who want to do the same. Mr Henry explained that the school had taken a number of steps this month to address the issue and would continue: e.g. assemblies, messages to parents, speaking to individual children. The main issue is with incorrect footwear, PE kit and jewellery in UKS2. Cost of living crisis was acknowledged but the school cannot compromise on incorrect uniform; support can be provided to families in need.</p>	<p>School to reiterate to families the importance of correct uniform and continue to follow up on those not wearing it</p>
<p>4. School Dinner Menu Parent agenda item request that when menu changes, parents are informed as the children sometimes come home with slight changes to the menu. Mr Henry indicated that school would inform if there were menu changes in advance but explained that we have regular issues with children changing their mind at the counter after ordering in the morning, and systems were such that this information was not available at the counter. This sometimes results in some children coming last not receiving the meal they ordered.</p>	<p>School to work with catering and MIS system companies to investigate whether the systems could 'talk' to each other reducing the issue of food running out</p>
<p>5. Walking to school trips A parent had emailed this agenda item in advance but no further information provided. Mr Henry asked the group whether they had experienced any issues with school trips involving walking; none had. The trip involving the furthest walk is to the Junior Citizen Scheme each autumn term, in Ilford involving Year 6 pupils. Given the cost of living crisis and current cost of coach travel, the school takes local trips involving walking or trips involving public transport. E.g. Y6 this year will visit Southend instead of Legoland, due to the rising cost.</p>	
<p>6. Cultural Heritage Day Suggestion that the school be interested in having a Heritage Day at school where children can dress up in their traditional clothes from their culture as it is important for children to remember and be proud of their heritage, as well as feeling confident within British culture/values.</p>	<p>School to consider a cultural heritage event in the next academic year, based on curriculum topics.</p>
<p>7. Partition Education Group Suggestion that the school be interested in exploring the work of the PEG which promotes study of partition which may relate to our school demographic.</p>	<p>School to explore the PEG and their resources, consider whether they could be incorporated into our curriculum.</p>
<p>8. 70th Birthday Celebrations Plans are underway for the 70th birthday celebrations including a family picnic on 9th June followed by an event for past pupils. Parents are welcome to join the event and if they know of any local music groups who may wish to play at the event, please let the school know.</p>	
<p>9. DEFRA Air Quality Project BLPS has been successful in their bid to become one of three focus schools for an air quality project (Newbury Park and Woodlands Primary Schools) Each school will act as a focus for the project, but we will also be working with GP surgeries, and other community groups, particularly focusing on those people most vulnerable to air pollution. More information will follow, including air quality awareness surveys, work with children in measuring air quality, parents becoming involved and some free cycle training lessons and storage for the school.</p>	<p>Interested parents requested to respond to the communication when it is sent by the school.</p>

<p>10. Annual Parent Survey Results of the Autumn term annual parent survey were shared on screen. Strengths were discussed and the areas for development commented on by parents were shared and views sought: communication about curriculum and progress received the highest number (9 comments). The group did not have any suggestions for how this could be improved, it was pointed out by a parent that the number of comments relating to this were very small in relation to the school population.</p>	
<p>AOB No AOB was raised.</p>	
<p>13. Time and Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 14th June, 5pm on Zoom</p>	