



PARENTS' FORUM

23RD SEPTEMBER 2021

“Microsoft Teams” meeting – 51 parents attended

Mr Parr and Mr Barber welcomed everyone to the meeting.

GOLDEN MOMENTS

Mr Parr shared some of the highlights of the first couple of weeks back at school:

- All of the new children have settled in remarkably well and it has been a particular joy to welcome children from far flung corners of the globe!
- It's lovely to be able to start doing things we haven't been able to do for over a year. We are getting a Year 5 and 6 football team together to take part in a local tournament later this term. We are also planning to take part in some inclusive sporting events with other local schools, where the emphasis is on participation.
- We are delighted that we have been chosen to be the only school represented at the Bristol Green Capital Cities Versus Climate Crisis conference this month. We have made a short video with the children which will be shown at the conference, prior to the COP26 conference next month.
- Eagle eyed viewers will have spotted Henleaze Junior School in the ITV drama Manhunt this week (Series 2 Episode 3 if you want to watch on Catch-Up). The film crew spent a couple of days here last year, and a bit of our corridor features for about 5 seconds! (It is not suitable for children...)

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Mr Barber talked through the school's priorities for the coming year.

The main headings on the SDP are:

- Curriculum
 - We have a particular focus this year on the Humanities: History and Geography. We are reviewing the topics we teach, to make sure that they are relevant, that children are able to make connections with what they have learnt previously, and that they help children to make sense of the world.
- Attainment and Progress
 - As well as maintaining high standards of achievement in English and Maths, we want to be sure that all children, including those with special educational needs, those who are new to English and children whose circumstances present them with greater challenges, make progress in whatever terms are most appropriate to them.
- Leadership

- We have lots of policies to review and update, to bring them into line with developments in our understanding of teaching and learning, curriculum development, SEND and behaviour.
- Staff Development
 - We are looking at approaches to feedback and marking, making sure that teachers spend their time doing the things that make the biggest difference to children’s learning. We want to make sure that all our staff are ready to give a good account of ourselves if Ofsted come to call, so that they can see the value of the fantastic work that goes on.
- Extra-curricular Provision and Wraparound Care
 - We have already revamped our offer, and we will be monitoring take-up and quality to make sure that the before- and after-school activities meet the needs of our families.
- Succession Planning
 - This plan is for Year 1 of a 3-Year Plan. Mr Barber has already announced his intention to retire at the end of Year 2. Therefore, we want to make sure that the school is well prepared to hand over the leadership smoothly.

The [School Development Plan](#) is available to view on the website.

Mr Barber gave advance notice that the school will be holding a parent governor election this term. We hope that we have willing candidates to put themselves forward, and would very much like to increase the diversity of the governing body, to reflect the diverse community of the school.

COVID UPDATE

Mr Parr explained how the school is responding to the changes in government guidance this term. Parents are aware that we are no longer required to keep children in “bubbles”. The biggest difference this term is that children are not required to self-isolate if they are identified as close contacts of someone who tests positive for covid. Comments in the meeting “chat” suggest that parents have been happy with the school’s communications about this, attempting to explain the government’s strategy and help parents to do the right thing.

Our communication policy is to write to the parents of a class if a member of that class (pupil or adult) tests positive. We will not write to the rest of the school unless a number of cases are reported affecting a group in the school. If that is the case, then we will introduce additional safety measures, either for that group or for the whole school, and will inform everybody. In most cases, parents do not need to do anything if they receive a notification about a covid case, but all the details of how to arrange covid tests and what to do when you get the results are on our website. We’ve updated the [Covid pages](#) and added [links to relevant government websites](#). We’ve also uploaded a Bristol City Council Guide to Covid Absence for Parents, which has a relatively easy to understand flow chart explaining what to do if this, that or the other happens.

There was a question about whether the school could publish updates on the number of cases currently reported. It would not be practical to do so, as the number changes constantly, and it is becoming almost a full time administrative job keeping track of calls. We keep a spreadsheet to help us manage who is in, who is out, who has symptoms and who

doesn't, who has taken a test, whether it is a Lateral Flow or a PCR, and so on. We scrutinise this data constantly and inform parents when we believe there is something they need to know. Unfortunately, we can expect there to be a continuing pattern of absences, and it will at some point affect all of the classes. Parents should rest assured that we are doing everything in line with the safety guidance. We have spoken to the Department for Education helpline and the South West Health Protection Team, and they have told us that everything we are doing is correct.

The guidance on contact tracing has made it very clear that it is not the school's role to contact families of close contacts. However, in reality, children often do not remember the names of children they have sat close to in the classroom, especially at the start of the new school year, or children who are new to the school. In such cases, we are very happy to work with NHS Test and Trace to help them get in touch with relevant families. We know that parents have made very good use of Whats App to inform each other of positive covid cases. They should still inform the school by the usual methods so that school can take the correct action and provide useful guidance. We are not on the Whats App groups, and nor should we be!

HOME LEARNING

Mr Barber briefly described how the home learning platform is being used to support children who are unable to come into school. Everything is in Teams. For those that were with us last year, the organisation of channels and files is exactly the same as it was during the lockdown, when everyone was learning at home. The difference now is that we do not have teachers available to organize online meetings or live lessons, as they are all in the classroom teaching the children in school.

We are uploading the lesson plans every week. Each year group has its own Team, and each Team has several Channels.

- The General channel is where we post messages for the whole year group.
- The English Channel is where you will find English lessons. There may be Posts on the channel, but to find the lessons, click on the Files tab. You should find a folder for each week.
- The Maths Channel is where you will find Maths lessons, as above.
- The Science Channel is where you will find Science lessons.
- The Other Lessons Channel is where you will find other subjects. In the Files tab you will find a folder for each subject.
- There won't necessarily be new lessons for every subject every week, but there should be English and Maths every week.

We haven't got time to adapt the lesson plans for home learners – they are designed to be used by teachers in the classroom. Some of them may be easy to use at home, but others may not. Don't worry – as long as you know what the children in school are learning about, there are plenty of resources on the internet that you can use to follow similar lessons. We've put lots of useful links on the [Work Space](#) of our website.

Children can always ask for help by sending a Chat message to their teacher, or by posting a question on the subject channels. If they do that, then there's a good chance another child can come back with an answer. Staff in school will monitor Teams and will respond to children's messages – not necessarily immediately, but same day. (Unless it is late at night...)

HENSA

Kerry introduced herself as the chair of the Parents' Association, HENSA. They are keen to recruit new volunteers, as several key people left this summer when their children moved on to secondary school. You don't have to commit to doing anything – it's just nice to hear different ideas from people, and good to get involved in fundraising for the school and social events.

If you have the Class List app, it's easy to send a message to HENSA. Alternatively, send an email to hensa@henleazejuniorschool.co.uk.