



PARENTS' FORUM

3RD MAY 2019

10 parents attended.

Enrichment Week

Plans are underway for a week of Music and PE activity, 20-24th May. The intention is to celebrate the school's focus on those subjects this year, and to emphasise the contribution that music and physical activity make to good mental health and wellbeing.

Mr Barber described the activities that are planned for the week, including arrangements for Sports Day. Mr Heath has taken on board feedback from parents, pupils and staff after last year's event, and as a result this year there will be more opportunities for all children to take part in the competitive races, as well as every child taking part in the carousel of team games.

For more details of Enrichment Week, check the website [Let's Play](#) page.

Shuffling classes

We will be shuffling the year 3 classes when they go into Year 4. We have no plans to shuffle other year groups. Parents whose children have been through the shuffle in the last two years were very positive about the experience. Children have widened their friendships as a result.

It was agreed that a letter to Year 3 parents during Term 5 to remind them of the process and the rationale would be welcomed. Without raising expectation that parents may choose who their child's classmates would be, the letter would ask parents to inform school of any relevant information which we might otherwise not have which would help us to organize the classes appropriately.

We discussed the difficulty of offering children a choice of who they would like to be with: whilst some schools offer this option, it is virtually impossible to guarantee that every child can be placed with their choices, and there is a risk that some children may experience more anxiety as a result of feeling their wishes had been ignored.

Teachers will be organising opportunities for children to work in different groupings within the year group in advance of the shuffle, and throughout the school teachers have been adopting a practice of changing classroom seating plans on a regular basis so that children are comfortable working alongside each other even if they are not particularly close friends.

On Shuffle Up day, we will organize a tea party after school for parents of Year 3. This will give them an opportunity to find out who else will be in their child's class in year 4 and to

meet other parents, with a view to exchanging contact details and arranging play dates if they wish to during the summer. This event was very well received last year.

Team points

We discussed the way team points are used as a reward for reading, and whether this is consistent throughout the school. Some children who love reading and read a lot maybe don't get as many team points as others who have to be coaxed to do the bare minimum..

This led to a more general discussion about motivators and rewards and how equitable they are. It is virtually impossible to establish a definitive value for a team point which can be universally applied. Some children can be encouraged to achieve their potential by the offer of team points; others will push themselves regardless of extrinsic rewards. This inevitably results in the anomaly of children who might face challenges getting more team points than children who are generally very successful.

The Roll of Honour rewards children whose behaviour and attitudes are consistently exemplary. Teachers choose children three times a year, often involving their classes in the nomination process, to be presented with a certificate in assembly. This enable the balance to be redressed to a certain extent in favour of those children who do not need to be motivated by the promise of reward to do their very best.

Staff have identified behaviour expectations and management as an area that is ready for review. Some of the well established routines need refreshing, and the use of team points may well be a good place to start.

In the first instance, we will check with staff how they are using team points to reward children for reading at home, so that we can give parents a clear indication of what is expected as the children go through the school. Ultimately, we want children to develop a love of reading, not a need for team points.

Snack time

It seems that some children are bringing home their uneaten mid-morning snacks because they don't feel they have time to eat them, or because their friends don't eat theirs, or because they would rather play at break time than stop still long enough to eat a snack. As a consequence, some children come home and complain that they were hungry at school.

It was suggested that children would be more likely to eat the snacks their parents provide them with if there were a dedicated time, either before they go out to play or as soon as they come in, when everyone gets their snack and eats it.

Ideas from other schools: "Brain food time" – ready to tackle the next lesson. "Nude food" – encourage children to avoid non-recyclable or compostable waste by bringing fruit in reusable containers, not cereal bars in plastic wrappers.

This is something staff can discuss and review.