

Great Barford Church of England Primary Academy

'Growing together through learning, friendship and worship'



Tuesday 2nd July 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Parent Forum had their second meeting last month. Our remit is to collect views, suggestions and solutions from the wider parent group in order to support the school in moving forward.

The aim of the last meeting was to discuss the issue of communication within our school. This was an issue that many of you felt strongly about when completing the OFSTED Parent View Survey. We chose to address this area first as we believe that communication plays a crucial part in how we feel involved and engaged with our children's school life and learning.

Considering that this was an area that many of parents and carers had strong views on in the OFSTED survey, we were disappointed to receive only 3 email responses. Thank you to those parents who took the time to give their thoughts and ideas.

We think it is important to say at this point that communication is a 2-way process. If we are to deliver your messages to the school so that they can create the effective lines of communication that you feel are lacking, we need to know what the problem areas are.

Our meeting focused on the following key areas that were raised by our responders:

Parent Comment/suggestion	What we do well	Even better if...	Points for discussion	Next steps/Action points
Website niggles – consistency and errors	New website	Updated more regularly and checked for details of prices, links, policies	Website still under review and in process of being updated. Policies follow a cycle of review, so these will be updated in due course.	Website overall aimed to be completed ready for September 2019 Parent forum members to check and review in Autumn term
Newsletters	Weekly and more regular now	Accuracy of dates/times/spelling Achievements could be shared more often	Most people seem happy with A4 newsletter length – school staff are conscious not to overload parents with information	Staff are going to consider how celebrations and achievements can be shared through alternative newsletters or website pages Mrs. Evans will write to all parents in September to explain communication procedures
Bumped heads	Letters home for head injuries and stickers	Letters can get lost – could a phone call be made?	We discussed how information could be passed on and when phone calls are necessary	School are going to trial some new systems Red letter for head bumps Green for general first aid Calls will be made where appropriate stickers/wrist bands etc.

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Afterschool chats with parents	Information is shared as needed	Consider where the information is shared – playground can be a bit public	How can parents be informed that the teacher would like a chat?	Mrs. Evans will raise this in a staff meeting to raise staff awareness
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Our aim as a Parent Forum is for you to feel listened to and that your opinions are valued. I hope from this first feedback letter that you will feel more confident approach the parent forum. If it is important to you, we would like to help find a way forward by sharing it and finding a solution.

Unfortunately, we are sadly aware that some of your concerns and issues are being shared through Social Media groups. Whilst this platform has many useful applications, some of the comments being shared recently are fueling a very negative image of our school. This is not how we would hope our school to be portrayed.

We want to be able to do the best for you and your children, we want to be able to help the staff move the school forward and for it to be the best, it can be. We do need you to be on board with us though. We know that we will not be able to please all the people, all of the time; we hope to be able to please the majority of you most of the time though.

Therefore, in our meeting next month we are going to address the issue of our low response from you by devising an electronic questionnaire as an alternative way for us to gain your opinions. As the OFSTED online questionnaire was able to gain such a good response, we are hopeful that this will give more of you a way to communicate with us.

In the meantime, if you do have any pressing matters:

- Please remember that your first point of contact is always your child's class teacher.
- If you cannot catch them afterschool or attend a drop in session, a mutually convenient time can be arranged for a meeting, or an email can be forwarded to them from the school office
- Any general enquires can be made via the school office where Mrs. Meadows can either answer your questions or direct your email/question to the appropriate person

For non-urgent suggestions for the parent forum, you can also email the parent forum: parentforum@gbpa.org.uk

Your Parent Forum

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