



parents forum

Minutes: 29th April 2020

Members present:

Laura Atkins (Chair)	Elaine Nangle	Rachel Lamont
Anna Allen	Jasmine Howe	Sarah Thompson
Lucy Goringe	Gemma Halsey	Julie Easton (Teacher rep)
Nici Turnball	Vicki Houldcroft	

<p>School has asked parent forum for parent's responses to the home schooling situation.</p>	<p>Response from school:</p>
<p>The feedback from parents to the online/ home schooling has been overwhelmingly positive.</p> <p>Communication is good. Teachers have been very good at keeping in touch with people and the personal replies are appreciated. It is clear that there is no pressure to get it all done. The younger children are loving all the pictures. FS parents are loving the tapestry comments.</p> <p>Parents like the way the work is planned and structured. In most classes there is about the right amount. Where teachers are giving core plus the optional extras format this works well. A mixture of doing what the class teacher has set plus other stuff as suits the family. It is clear there is no pressure to get it all done. Parents like the personal feedback. Older children like the online challenges they are able to upload it onto their classroom. In Y6 there is a real sense of community in their classroom and a nice sense of camaraderie. They are sitting at their laptops waiting for the morning challenge to go live!</p> <p>Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial confusion over work being handed in has been sorted out - thank you • Class pages were busy and confusing. Teachers have now sectioned off the work and this is now much easier to navigate. • Having lots of logins for the younger children is tricky. A reminder for children that their passwords are in the back of their learning logs would be useful. • The weekly timetables make it easier to navigate the week's work. Thank you 	<p>Thank you for all the positive responses. It is lovely to hear how much is working well for families.</p>

- The maths is working well (White Rose).
- There were individual comments for each class teacher relating to the work set for that class.

Questions about Class Learning

- The upper school are using google classrooms. Would this be appropriate for children to use further down the school? In Y5 both are available. Parents prefer the Google Classrooms set up.
- Printing - It would be nice to have everything that needs printing in one file and then you can hit print. Would this be possible?
- The learning platform is very slow on a Monday morning. Is there a way to offset this? Next week's work being put up on the Friday night instead of Sunday perhaps?
- Labelling of work is sometimes confusing. Could work be labelled with the same title as is on the weekly timetable so it is clear what work to look for?
- Could the work be loaded towards the front end of the week (the greater portion set towards the start of the week) so that a) there is catch up time and b) parents can have a 'golden time' carrot to work towards on Friday.
- Is there any chance of having more online worksheets so that not everything has to be printed out.

Thank you for these, they have been shared with teachers individually

After discussion in school, it has been decided that Google Classrooms is best suited to older children. Mrs Tiffin will gradually move Y5 work totally over to Google Classrooms

From this week Admin staff will Email each year group with a master copy of all files that need printing.

A staggered time for accessing the platform has been put in place which should help with this. Emailing printable work as above will hopefully also help.

Staff have been made aware of this and will endeavour to make things more easily identifiable.

Please feel free to suggest to your child that they do some work earlier in the week than it is set in order to gain an early finish on Friday. They will enjoy the Friday time even more if they have been involved in working for it themselves. It will also be a good lesson for them in time management.

Where a worksheet can't be filled in online, it is always fine to write the answers to each question directly into the books sent home or onto paper which would also avoid having to print out work.

- Teachers aren't always available online to answer questions immediately. Could we know when they will be available to answer questions each day?

- (Y6 suggestion) Is it possible to have some audio clips of the work being read for the comprehension work to help those with additional needs to stay on task?

Questions about handing work in

- Could there be some clarity of what and when to hand in. What's the best way to hand it in?

- Some of the files are very large. Is there a file size limit? Can eschools manage these massive file sizes? We don't want to break the system.

Some staff members are balancing their time setting and responding to online work with teaching in school and will be less available in the weeks when they are in school. They will let the children know when it is their week in school and their response times may be slower.

The reading tasks have been set for the child to practice their reading and in this instance recording them wouldn't be appropriate.

Up to Y4 families are free to hand in work as it suits/ works for them. All of these are appropriate to the situation - Some are sending work in daily, others send a weekly overview of what have been covered. Some send everything, others send in a selection that they particularly want feedback on. Photographed pages works well. Some are saving these to a cloud space and sending a link, others attaching them to an email or a message in the learning platform.

In the upper school, work set on Google Classrooms has a hand in date. It can still be handed in late as there is no pressure (although this may affect team points!)

We have telephoned eschools to check. The platform size is limitless and will cope with whatever is put on it. If you are attaching a file to an email they advise that 100mb is the largest size to send.

Questions about Rewards

- Team points - Some children are getting loads of points and others less. Is this linked to how often they are handing in work? Can school share guidelines about how team points are allocated. Some children are very motivated by them and want to know how to get more! (most don't mind)

As a general guide, staff allocate 1 team point for each main piece of work they receive. In Upper KS2, there are hand in dates; where work is late, teachers will endeavour to add the team points but this particularly difficult if the work is handed in at weekends. Activity on online games such as doodle maths also gains the children team points. They are then giving more at the teacher's discretion based on the merits of the work and effort the child has put in. The more work children hand in and the better the quality, the more team points they will receive. Where children have done extra work, and let teachers know about it, they may also receive team points. If a child hands the whole week's work in on one day, they would expect to receive all the points for that work on that day.

- Newsletter work - does it go directly to Miss Thatcher or to the class teacher? How would a child's work end up on the newsletter?

If your child would like their work on the newsletter, send it directly to Miss Thatcher head@grazeley.wokingham.sch.uk She is not managing to check eschools inbox as regularly.

General Questions

- Children are losing motivation a little bit not seeing their teachers. Could we use of zoom as an online platform, or a video, for interaction and being able to see and hear their teachers?
- Can we do some sort of collaborative stuff? There was a discussion amongst the group with lots of possibilities shared...

We hope the children have enjoyed seeing the videos from their teachers on the class pages and the video message on the school newsletter.

This is a lovely idea! We have started with a Geography walking display that families

A charity challenge or something to get everyone working together. School in West Berks has put up pictures of Keyworkers that children have sent in. (EN to send photos and find out a bit more)

Could the children's work from home be put up on display in the classroom that could then be photographed and shared back. The display is then up in their class when they come back.

Each class be allocated a different colour and send that item into school which could then be printed out in school and displayed in the different classes so that it is a rainbow across the school ready for when they come back.

- What's happening about Osmington Bay next year/ payments for Osmington bay?

- How are EHCPs and annual reviews going to happen? People starting to worry. Will WBC be in the meeting as usual

- Will there be some way of the Y6 having a leavers ceremony at any point over the summer or even September if we don't get back to school before July ends.

- Have any of the secondary schools been in contact about transition into secondary schools and how will it run? Is there any news about how Y5s will visit schools to make decisions for secondary school placements?

From School

Miss Easton thanked all the parents on behalf of the school for tackling home learning so well, for being so positive and engaging with what we are asking from school.

The Grazeley Community really feels like it is pulling together.

➤ AOB:

were emailed about last week
We will look at how we could manage one of these lovely but bigger ideas across the whole school and will feedback via the school newsletter.

Parents of Y5 children have now received an email about this with as much information as we are able to share at this point.

These will be happening online. Mrs Didcock is contacting the families that this affects directly.

Yes. This is an important time for the children and it will be marked appropriately with them at a time and in a way that Social Distancing allows.

Secondary schools have shared in meetings that they are currently working out different ways of organising transition. Each school is sorting out a way that works for them and they will contact us when they are ready to start that transition process. We will then in turn contact Year 6 parents.

Date for next meeting: None Set