

## Parent Forum, Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2023

As ever it was a pleasure to meet parents face to face and provide them with the opportunity to bring any questions, however large or small, to the Headteacher and Chair of Governors.

No questions had been submitted in advance and the first topic of conversation was **what change could be made to the current format which might encourage more parents to attend**. Mrs Gage mentioned the great success of the SEND coffee mornings which have developed over the year. The general feeling was that “rebranding” to a less formal sounding Parents and Carers Coffee Morning might sound more welcoming, as well as an earlier start of 8.45am, so there is no delay between drop off and meeting. **This will therefore be the approach next term.**

Mrs Collins then spoke about a new scheme the school will be adopting next year as part of their **PSHRE curriculum provision**. It is called **“No outsiders – All different, all welcome”** – particularly relevant to the day which was the school’s Day of Welcome. A booklet explaining the resources used has been sent out to parents online. The deviser/author of the scheme, Andrew Moffat, will be coming into school in October and the school has already invested in the books tailored to each year group.

Governors this term are monitoring the effect of the visit of the 2 Johns last term, in support of **online safety throughout the school community**. The parents were asked if they had noticed any difference in their child’s/children’s attitude to online safety and whether they themselves had attended the meeting for parents. Those who did were able to highlight how much had changed in the years since the last visit of the 2 Johns. The pervasiveness of online “Influencers” is incredibly powerful now and the need for children to know exactly who they are talking to online, vital.

Mrs Collins spoke a little more about the **Day of Welcome** leading into refugee week and how each year group approached the topic differently – some looking at Paddington, others more real life experiences, some year groups combining to share ideas and so on. This was an event the school signed up to last year and was very successful which is why they signed up again this year and benefited from some beautiful books as a result.

Mrs Gage asked parents if there were any positive changes they had noticed from this year and there was a lot of **praise for the OPAL Scheme** giving children far more adventurous and imaginative play opportunities and encouraging mixing between the year groups. **This Friday (23<sup>rd</sup> June) there will be a meeting for parents at 9.00am followed by a chance for them to play with the children between 9.30am and 10.00am.**

**Part of the field has had to be sectioned off** just at the moment, which is a shame particularly at this time of year. Only years 5 and 6 are able to play football on one section of the field at the moment. Mrs Collins was able to explain that it is the beginning of a large-scale process to clear the bushes and undergrowth to allow access to the fencing at the back, in order to survey it prior to replacing it with an even more robust fence. Unfortunately, this will take some time (and cost a lot of money!), but the school is **covering this as fast as possible and keeping the children safe in the meantime.**

This year has seen a lot of **curriculum development** and new schemes of work adopted, partly because of staff changes. Mrs Gage asked how many parents had come to the Art Gallery at the end of the spring term and all had and spoke enthusiastically of the art and the fluency with which all the children had spoken about their year’s work on display.

Mrs Collins was able to share that next term will see a **new school website** which is currently in the planning phase so she was interested to gather parents’ views on the most helpful aspects of a website. Term dates came up first. The parents do also use the Friday Flyer and Tapestry for information regularly.

One parent spoke about **First Aid training** and wondered if it was something which years 5 and 6 might benefit from. Mrs Collins said she could investigate this.

Finally a huge **vote of thanks for the excellent and dedicated work of Mr Fleuty** in caring for the school and its grounds.