



# parents forum

Minutes: 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021

## Extra Meeting to Review Effectiveness of Lockdown Learning

Members present:

Laura Atkins (Chair)	Vicki Houldcroft	Rachel Lamont
Jasmine Howe	Nici Turnbull	Sarah Thompson
Lucy Goringe	Julie Easton (Teacher rep)	Anna Allen
Gemma Halsey		
Apologies: No one was missing		

Agenda Item:	Response from school:
<p><b>Home Learning:</b> The feedback from all classes has been overwhelmingly positive. Parent Forum wanted to make sure that the minutes accurately represented the appreciation that has been fed back in all classes for everything that the school has been doing to make home learning work well. This includes the office staff as well as the teaching staff and TAs.</p>	<p>Thank you for your positive comments and the support we have received at this time. It is lovely to be part of such a supportive community.</p>
<p><b>How is Google Classroom working for families?</b> There are no problems with this. The live lessons and use of Google Classroom is much better than last time. The children are 'thriving' (as much as you can during lockdown) on it. It works really well. The children in school are also very happy and parents have been impressed with the provision in school too. <b>Questions / Challenges</b> There is no 'hands up' option on the iPad so people are overcoming this by putting up a physical hand and teachers are noticing and asking them. Sometimes people are not always sure what they can and can't edit on Google Classrooms. People are finding that if formatting is the problem</p>	<p>This is really good to hear, thank you!</p> <p>This is a good solution</p>

they are writing in a book, photographing and uploading work to Google Classroom. How much should parents email the teacher?

Parents can email the class teacher via the class email address at any time they have a query. These email addresses are being checked by the teachers daily.

### Quantity of Work

There has been feedback in some classes that the workload is too much but they just do what they can. Parents are finding that children still need support to complete the work after having been in the live lesson.

Those that want more work are able to find it. Parents appreciated the message from school to do what you can and not feel stressed about not getting it all done.

In upper KS2, those children where the youngest child is in Grazeley and the older one in secondary school are finding they could do more work whilst those with siblings in younger year groups at Grazeley don't want any more work as they are only just coping with what is being set. Children with three siblings at Grazeley are attending 6 live lessons a day and are struggling to support children with the work around that. Parents are happy that there are no clashes with the live lessons.

The balance seems about right for this age group.

Children in the youngest classes have a lot of younger siblings. The live lessons are great and the work is about right but they aren't managing to do it all. They are quite relaxed about this situation.

In the middle year groups in school there are a group of parents who are very worried about not getting all the work done. Miss Balchin's reiteration of Miss Thatcher's message about not worrying about this in the class stream helped with this. Could Miss Easton also share this message? It might be helpful for that message to be shared on all classes' class stream.

We are required to set 4 hours of work a day for children in KS2 and 3 hours a day for children in KS1. The school would like to reiterate the message that parents should do as much as they can of the work and not to worry if they are not able to complete it all. We understand that these are unusual times.

Yes, Miss Easton will also share this message with class and it will be put into each class stream.

<p>Due date on work - this is adding to the worries of parents in the younger classes but is really useful for the children in upper Key Stage 2 as it gives them structure and time deadlines which are useful in preparation for secondary school. The message from the Upper KS2 Classes - please don't change anything, what you are doing is working well.</p> <p>Timetables - These are helpful in Upper KS2 where children are more able to manage their own work, but other year groups don't want them as it adds to their worries/ stress over the work and the parents need the flexibility of managing the work around other children's lessons etc.</p>	<p>Miss Balchin and Miss Easton will no longer put a due date on the work.</p> <p>Thank you for this feedback</p>
<p><b>Mental Wellbeing</b></p> <p>There is a real thankfulness for the instigation of Workout Wednesday as families were finding the constant Google meet and classes was too much. Parents were struggling to fit in the exercise around the live lessons. With Workout Wednesday this will timetable in time for exercise.</p> <p>Children and families need reminding to take breaks and lunch breaks in between the lessons as the temptation is to stay in the lessons. Where there have been issues or problems the school have been quick in responding to them and making necessary changes.</p>	<p>The school are glad that Workout Wednesdays have been welcomed by parents.</p> <p>We will put a reminder about this in the newsletter.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
<p><b>Contact with Class Teacher</b></p> <p>Parents are able to send private messages when they hand the work in. Some have stayed on at the end of the live lessons and talked to the teacher then.</p>	<p>The school will now also start telephoning families of all children at home for 2 or more days a week. This will be on a weekly or fortnightly basis. This call is to support families so please make the most of this opportunity to talk to a member of staff.</p>
<p><b>Work</b></p> <p>Is there a set time when work appears?</p> <p>Do parents need to send apologies if they can't attend a live lesson?</p> <p>Can we have a short golden time type activity, for example a quiz, as part of the live lesson on a Friday?</p>	<p>No. Each class schedules the work to appear at a different time.</p> <p>This would be really useful, yes please. You can use the class email address for this.</p> <p>Thank you for this idea. We will discuss it at a staff meeting.</p>

### **Timetable of Live Lessons**

Hazel parents are finding that the live lesson at 12:30 clashes with lunch, especially those with younger siblings, and are finding it difficult to make it to that lesson. Is there any way it could be pushed back to a later time?

Willow class are finding that 1:50 is too late in the afternoon for a live lesson and the children have difficulty concentrating. Could it be any earlier?

Could the live lesson times for all classes be published again?

Lisa's Art club - there are clashes with this and some live lessons and children have been disappointed to miss them. Could she record these so that they could watch later?

One parent asked if Y2 children could have access to Doodle Maths and Spell as they had during the last lockdown as they would like them to be able to do the extra maths and English on there.

The times of live lessons are very tight but we will talk with Mrs Rose and Miss Hannington to see if there is anything we can do and will liaise directly with Willow and Hazel class parents.

Live lesson times are...

Chestnut - 11.40 & 2.50

Hazel - 9.20 & 12.30

Willow - 10.40 & 1.50

Cedar - 10.10 & 1.20

Birch - 9.40 & 12.50

Sycamore - 11.10 & 2.20

Oak - 8.50 & 12

School will liaise with Lisa about this. It is something that she has generously offered as an extra and it is lovely that so many of you are enjoying it.

We will talk with the teacher in charge of this and see what is possible.

**Date for next meeting: TBC**