



The Grinling Gibbons and Lucas Vale Federation

4<sup>th</sup> November 2020

## First Parent Forum Meeting

A brief outline of today's first Parent Forum Meeting for those of you who were unable to make it.

Today we had 74 parents in the meeting which is great and so many of you had fantastic questions. We really look forward to doing this again.

- 1) Mickey Kelly is joining the school as executive headteacher in January~ he is currently Executive Headteacher of two outstanding schools in London and has lived in Deptford for over 30 years.
- 2) We talked about when the best time for the next meeting and it would be was decided that 5pm would suit the most parents.
- 3) We asked for parent volunteers and we have had a great response of 10 parents who said they would like to help out. That is so helpful.
- 4) We asked if anyone would like to be a school governor. A parent has responded and nominated herself to be parent governor, but if you are also interested, we would love to hear from you too.
- 5) We talked about the fact that we have to have the windows open in line with government guidance and PHE guidance and to let your children wear a jumper if they are likely to be cold.

We said we would find out if we HAVE to have windows open, Public Health England said in an email to me today we do have to have well ventilated rooms. But we can close most of the windows and just let a little draft through and keep the heating on in class. They also clarified that if the rooms become too cold, we can close the windows totally. Thank you, parents, for your helpful input, I wouldn't have contacted PHE about this because the government advice to schools has been, we must keep our classroom windows open.

It's good to remember that both schools in the federation have not had to close one bubble because we are being very cautious and doing all we can to keep your child safe. Many schools locally have not been so fortunate as us and we think it is to our credit that we have been following advice and making sure we keep your children as safe as we can.

- 6) We asked for ideas for future workshops that we can run on things parents want to find out about. So far, we have had requests for KS1 SATs preparations and expectations, and Year 1 phonics expectations and ways to help your child at home with maths.

- 7) Parents then asked more questions



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- How can we speak to our child's teacher?
  - By waving to them at pick up and waiting for them to come over
  - By making an appointment with the office for a longer chat after school.
- Can we ask that everyone wears a mask at the gate?
  - We said yes wear a mask if you can as it can be difficult sometimes to socially distance and we were reminded that not everyone can wear a mask for health reasons.
  - We hoped everybody was going to be extra nice at the moment because all of us are finding it tough and we hope that you can support each other as much as possible.
- How are you planning to recover the teaching time lost?
  - By employing booster teacher and the children doing slightly more maths and English every day. We said this would be on the agenda for next PF.
- How has the school been making progress since its last OFSTED inspection?
  - We agreed this would be a good topic for the next meeting to explore further
  - We did share that behaviour has improved
  - Personal development of our children has improved- children are more resilient and confident; they persevere when faced with difficulties in learning
  - The learning behaviour of pupils has improved and continues to improve- we continue to develop our children as 'outstanding learners'
  - the quality of teaching and learning continues to improve, and we are providing support for the teachers.
  - progress is improving and we are addressing the gaps in learning, this is improving
  - We are rapidly developing a more engaging wider curriculum- trips, work (careers) week, various performances including Irish dancing
  - We have made our teaching offer much more consistent across the school
  - We will take more time next meeting to discuss this with parents



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- Will last year's Year 2 be tested this year or do they wait till Year 6 SATS?
- We will use teacher assessment in conjunction with national benchmarking tests from now until Year 6 and keep you informed of those results
- Will I have to send my child in during lockdown? If I don't will you send homework?
- Yes, you do need to send your child to school during this lockdown.
- No, we will not send your child homework if they are off, we will only do that if they have been told to isolate by a doctor or the school closes a bubble.

Thank you so much for giving up the time for this meeting, it certainly felt like there was a lot of valuable feedback and a lot for us as a school to think about. We look forward to the next one sometime in the spring, a date and agenda will follow.

Have a good evening, be kind and stay safe out there!

Yours warmly,

John Calvert, Ruth Cobblah and the Lucas Vale team