

## Parents' Forum Meeting – 2/10/2020

### Minutes

1. **Parent Evenings:** we will be having virtual appointments and they will take place in the first and second week after half term. We will be using School iCloud so the same system we use to book the appointments. Meetings will be 10 minutes as usual, however, they can be followed up by telephone conversations, if necessary. The dates for when appointments will become live, to be advised.
2. **Open mornings/afternoons:** we have 25 siblings from next September 2021 however we still need to promote our school. We cannot have visitors in as before so are creating short videos; showing the school, narration from the EYFS teachers, video of the Head boys/girls and the SLT team plus a Q & A section. Annie has asked the present EYFS parents for questions they most wanted answered, however, please could our Parent Forum body think of information that we should really get across in the Q & A section and would anybody be willing to give us some quotes of why they chose St George's as we will also include in this section of our website. Any quotes or questions that parents feel need to be answered, please send to Y5 rep Natasha.
3. **Fund raising – Friends:** The Friends are looking for ideas and ways to raise money remotely. Main focus this year is for furniture and fittings for the EYFS learning environment. Cost is about £12,000. Also equipment for lunch times. Any ideas or if you have any ideas – please email in to the Friends. Ask you WhatsApp groups for ideas and feedback to Laura and Louise. Any ideas to be emailed to the Friends; suggestions were sponsored walk, class challenges, sponsored readathon, mini marathon, auction, messages from Father Christmas, stamps, decorations.
4. **Channels of Communication:** Amount of emails from the office was raised - Where possible emails are grouped together – however at the present time there is so much information coming our way due to COVID and beginning of the year. Communication is difficult as some say too much some too little. Office are very aware and sensitive to this issue. Email Subject is always included to enable people to sift through and ignore if not pertinent/of interest to them. Some key information has to come out separately, as important. Communication is an area that is always raised and not easy to get right.

Communication with teachers – reminder that parents are able to talk to the teachers either in the morning but afternoon at collection is the best time to have a word with a teacher. If you need to have a meeting with a teacher, then please email in to admin with a brief reason for the nature of the concern as the office will ensure that the teacher is notified and can then speak to you at the end of the day or call you. When emailing in, please add in the subject box, the name of the child/teacher and year group. If there is an issue that occurred the previous day then when the email is received it is passed on to the teacher and Miss Georghiades, our Family Worker. As the teacher is in class Miss Georghiades will always investigate it, speak to the child/children, contact the parent and ask the teacher to contact

or speak to the parent at the end of the day. The teacher is also always happy to arrange a meeting with the parent too.

Also a member of the Inclusion team or SLT are always on the gate so you are able to pass on messages via them.

It was suggested about reinstating the class email boxes however, the teachers are now constantly in class, have meetings, marking, lesson preparation to address at the end of the day and might not get the time to look at the class email boxes. Whereas through the admin email, a communication trail is started, the office ensure that the teachers are made aware that a parent would like them to call or meet them at the end of the day and then the issue/concern is addressed quickly.

It was asked if teachers could compose a short email home at the end of this half term to let the parents know how their child is doing which would then be further discussed at the parents' meeting after half term. EP/CG to talk to teachers.

5. **Drop off/pick up:** – face masks: we cannot enforce parents to wear face masks as parents are waiting on public property – the pavement. We can advise and suggest and we know that other schools are asking parents/carers to wear them but many are coming on to the school grounds/playgrounds. However, the school is very happy to ask/advice parents to wear masks when queuing if social distancing cannot be adhered to. Teachers have a concern from a safeguarding perspective too as when parents wear masks it is harder to recognise them during pick up and as it is quite a quick transaction. Now easier but in winter months, with hoods, darker clothes, murkier weather. However, if the general consensus is that parents would prefer all to wear them, we will include in the newsletter and use the WhatsApp groups to promote. We could also get the Friends to create a St George's face covering to raise money for the funding pot.
6. **WhatsApp groups:** – very useful to share ideas, reminders, promote school events or ask for help etc. however can we be mindful sometimes of content
7. **Home learning/book bags:** Unfortunately, we can't give you one password to access all the different websites because they are all different websites but we are looking at one platform and will be using office 365 that apps can be displayed on. Through this we should be able to add the different websites and apps that we use.
8. **Reading records and homework books** should be coming back at the end of each half term. Year 6 use a contact book that the children write down their homework to prepare them for Year 7; EYFS have reading records. If parents have issues regarding homework; spelling etc., please speak to the teacher direct.
9. **School bags** are being discouraged to limit as much coming home back/forwards; however, if a child has lots to bring in on a daily basis then they can use a book bag. In KS2 the children are just bringing in their water bottle and lunchbox.

## **AOB**

10. **School dinners** – if parents have any concerns or worries about school dinners, please email Nourish direct and they will answer your issues at [siobhan@nourishcontractcatering.co.uk](mailto:siobhan@nourishcontractcatering.co.uk)
  
11. **Traffic complaints:** please use this website and go to the link for reporting incorrect parking : [www.bromley.gov.uk/info/471/street\\_parking](http://www.bromley.gov.uk/info/471/street_parking)
  
12. Date for Friends' **AGM – 9<sup>th</sup> October at 1.30pm**
  
13. Awning going up in the October half term.
  
14. **RSHE policy** is being emailed to all parents, please can parents read through it and if they have any concerns or questions to email the [admin@st-georgesbickley.bromley.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-georgesbickley.bromley.sch.uk) .