

Parent Forum Minutes: 16th October 2018

Member of staff in attendance: Mr Monti (Associate Principal)

Mrs Spruth (Business Support Manager)

Year groups represented:

Year group	Number	Year group	Number
Reception	0	5	6
1	1	6	7
2	2	7	4
3	5	8	4
4	4		

Item	Discussion	Action
1	The gate by Kitelands Road reception is very heavy. Can this be looked at please?	Our site team is currently investigating the best option for this.
2	Can parents please have the dates for Christmas activities/events please?	A Parentmail has been sent.
3	Lunchtimes - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playing football at lunchtimes. • Some Year 3 pupils feel intimidated on the playground with older pupils around. 	Playing football is allowed and pupils have been reminded about playing safely on the playground. Pupils will be encouraged to seek out a Big Buddy or member of staff on duty on the playground if required.
4	Lost property – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When is lost property open for children? • Could children check peg areas for items not belonging to them? 	Lost property is open every break and lunchtime as well as straight after school for pupils to check. All pupils are told to take everything home each half term.
5	After School Clubs – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents would like the academy to offer more after school clubs. • Could we look at parent helpers to run clubs or paid clubs? • Could German and Spanish clubs be made available to KS3 as these are curriculum options in the upper schools? 	We welcome parent volunteers to run clubs. We currently do not have any German or Spanish speaking staff available to run a club. Multi Active are now running an after school club.
6	Parents are concerned about the weather for the Y6 trip in November.	The trip in November will help with team building and friendships – a full week of activities has been planned.
8	End of day pick up – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern that pupils are left waiting by themselves for parents to pick up after 3.45pm. • Parking and traffic is bad outside Mead End entrance. 	Staff have been reminded to remain on duty until 3.45pm and pupils can wait at the top of the drive or under the canopy after this time. Traffic calming measures have been put in place outside both the Mead End and Kitelands Road entrances over half term. The Academy sends out regular reminders to parents about parking. Should parents still have a concern we recommend they contact Central Bedfordshire Council.
9	The ASD Provision does a great job within the Academy but the information on our website is not up to date.	We will be reviewing our website content this half term.
10	Homework – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can we please clarify when pupils should get homework? • Positive feedback on homework – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It's good having spellings over the weekend. 	The amount of homework provided and the complexity of the homework will develop as pupils move through the school. This is detailed on our website.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It's good mixing literacy and numeracy homework. 	
11	The PE department is great at the Academy. Why do boys do football whilst girls do tennis – could the children be given the option to pick?	This feedback has been passed to our PE department.
12	Parentmail is great - could the Academy consider using the Parentmail Events option?	We introduced Parentmail Forms earlier this year and we are always looking for ways to improve parent communications.
13	Could information and timetables about Inspiring Music lessons be on our website?	This request has been passed to our Music department.
14	Uniform supplier – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There are some differences between the academy policy and the uniform available on the Mapac website. ● Delivery time for items ordered from Mapac takes a long time – 5 weeks. ● The sizing on some uniform is not great and the sizes change dependent on the item. 	We value parent opinions on our suppliers and this feedback will be taken into consideration.
15	100% attendance reward	At the present time pupils will receive a gold attendance certificate if they achieve 100% attendance.
16	Are sanitary bins available for pupils to use across Mead End?	Sanitary bins are available in the toilets in every building.
17	What happens if pupils have not had their thumb prints done?	Pupils can still purchase tuck and lunch without having their thumb prints scanned.
18	Could the music practice rooms be opened before and after school for children to put their instruments in?	Unfortunately, we cannot keep the rooms unlocked but pupils can come to the office to get the key to put their instruments away.
19	Are children allowed to wear GPS watches? They are similar to smart watches.	Pupils are not allowed to wear GPS or smart watches.
20	Positive Feedback – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Year 8 Celebration Evening last year. ● PE Department. ● Parents loved the Year 4 Harvest Assembly. ● Positive feedback generally on the teachers and the Academy. ● Positive feedback on homework – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It's good having spellings over the weekend. ○ It's good mixing literacy and numeracy homework. ● Catering system tills tell kitchen staff when it is a child's birthday. ● Communication is good. ● The children loved the independence camp last year. ● ASD Provision does a great job. ● Parentmail. ● Children have settled in really well since joining the Academy in September. ● Teacher's calling to introduce themselves in the first half term was a lovely touch. ● Thank you for putting on the parent forums – really useful for parents. 	Thank you.