

Parent Forum Question and Answers - October 2020

Many thanks to the parents and carers that posted suggestions for improvements to the school and raised questions. Below is a summary of the points raised:

What ideas would you like to share with us?	
Can you increase social distancing at drop off and pick ups	We will again issue reminders to all parents and carers about the needs for social distancing on drop off and collection. Children should remain with their parents until reaching the school gate on drop off, and then once they have been collected at pick up times. As a school we can repeatedly remind parents of the rules but we can't enforce them
Bubbles should be allowed to mix as children are meeting up outside of school	Within school we need to maintain the bubble arrangements in line with government guidance.
Can you highlight consideration when parking outside the school.	Again, we will issue reminders to parents to be respectful to others at drop off and collection times as the safety of the children is paramount. We are in contact with the community policing team to ensure that cars are parked safely.
Can you have better communication with new parents?	We know there is lots of information for the school to give out when a new pupil joins us. If there are ever any questions please contact the school office or your child's class teacher.
When are break and lunchtimes?	With an age range of 2 to 13 year olds and a staggered timetable, break and lunchtimes will vary between year groups, especially with social distancing measures in place. Therefore please contact your child's class teacher who will be able to confirm their timetable.
Can you introduce a healthier menu for the pupils?	With the current situation we have been limited in what has been on offer to the pupils, but all options choices have included fruit and vegetables. In November we hope to expand the choices available, including hot meals.
Can you tell us if the children are eating properly.	There are different staff that supervise the children at lunch, however if you have a specific concern about your child please contact their class teacher.
Can the number of lunchtime supervisors be increased for Reception	As with all procedures, especially at this time, we are constantly reviewing the needs to ensure the lunch time arrangements are sufficient.

<p>Can you please streamline the number of ways that the school communicates with parents.</p>	<p>The direct system for communicating with parents is by telephone or email where face-to-face contact has been limited.</p> <p>Class Dojo is used for sharing children positive (and needs improving) effort and behaviour, and informal reminders.</p> <p>Google Classroom is used for setting homework.</p> <p>Parentmail is for more formal communication of key information.</p>
<p>When are the children allowed to go to the toilet?</p>	<p>To avoid large numbers of pupils gathering inside or outside the toilets, there is a timetable system to allow for all children to visit the toilet at break and lunches.</p> <p>We are aware that this system doesn't suit every child who has medical issues or needs to go in emergency circumstances, so pupils are allowed to go to the toilet when they need to.</p>
<p>Can the school rethink the toilet arrangements for older pupils.</p>	<p>With the government guidance on bubble sizes set at a maximum of 240, Yr7 and Yr8 must be maintained as separate bubble groups, where classroom, resources and toilet areas can not be shared.</p> <p>At break and lunch times, the toilets are monitored by staff to ensure they are used sensibly</p>
<p>Can the children change into something else if they get wet or muddy in PE, and still wear their trainers?</p>	<p>Once in school, with the majority of lessons taking place in their own classrooms, pupils leave their change of uniform in the class.</p> <p>If they have a spare set they are welcome to leave it in the class at the start of the week.</p> <p>The change of uniform needs to include all items that may get wet or muddy in a PE lesson.</p>
<p>Can the children wear coats inside if it is cold?</p>	<p>The heating in school is now on.</p> <p>Some windows do have to be open to allow for ventilation, however if the room becomes cold the children will be allowed to wear coats if necessary.</p>
<p>Can the children be more challenged in their learning?</p>	<p>All the lessons should be challenging, if you feel this is not the case, please raise the matter directly with the class teacher.</p>
<p>Can the Dojo system remain, when the Covid situation is over.</p>	<p>Class Dojo will remain as the way the to communicate positive (and requires improvement) with parents</p>

What particular questions can we answer?	
Is there a PTA?	Yes, we would love to have more parents involved in school initiatives and raising valuable funds, please contact the school office for further details.
Why are all the children in a class punished e.g. late out to lunch/break because one child misbehaved?	Poor behaviour is dealt with directly with the individual pupil (or pupils). In rare instances there may be an impact on the rest of the class before the whole class can be safely led out for break or lunch times.
Is any provision being made to increase online learning should another full lockdown occur?	The school has a number of plans in place for online learning depending on the different circumstances we may find ourselves in. Government expectations on work set during the Lockdown changed in focus, and we matched this accordingly. Should there be a further Lockdown it is the expectation to set a full learning provision on line which must be completed by all pupils.
With the cancellation of the year 8 trip, will there be an alternative?	We are looking into alternative opportunities that are in line with government guidance.
CBC will soon be consulting on whether Biggleswade should go to a 2 tier schooling system. What is the Academy's view on this?	There has been no announcement made on the future of Biggleswade and the surrounding areas with regards to a change from a three tier system.
Is there an Academy prospectus for pupils moving into Year 7?	Biggleswade and the surrounding areas are a three tier schooling system. Biggleswade Academy has two main entry points, which link with the Biggleswade Community of Schools - one at Reception,(when it is anticipated that pupils will remain with the school until they leave at Year 8) and one at Year 5 (when pupils from other Lower schools join and then remain at the Academy until Year 8).
Who is the new chair of the parent forum?	Mr Steer