



PARENTS' FORUM

16TH OCTOBER 2020

Zoom meeting – we had a good turn out, but not sure how many as I forgot to count!

Results of Parent Survey

Mr Barber shared the headlines from the recent survey about the return to school after lockdown.

Parents had been more anxious than children about coming back in September, but following the vast majority of parents and children were either happy or very happy to be back.

Parents gave us 4.5 out of 5 stars for the safety measures we have put in place and 4.5 out of 5 for the communications we have sent out.

There was a slightly more cautious response to the questions about home learning if we have another lockdown: 3.8 out of 5 for confidence in using Teams and 3.9 for general preparation for another lockdown. This is understandable, given the amount of uncertainty we all face.

Comments in the survey have been discussed with staff and governors. Amongst the suggestions, there were a couple of common themes:

- Parents feel that they need to be persuaded to remember social distancing rules at drop off and pick up times, and should be asked to wear masks. We have now done the latter, and will continue to issue reminders in the HJS Update, but parents agree that it is their responsibility to manage their distancing.
- Parents would like to know more about how we will support home learning if individuals or groups have to self-isolate. The presentation later in this meeting has been scheduled precisely for that purpose: to explain and publicise the school's Home Learning Plan.

Class closure

Mr Barber explained the steps taken by the school in reaching the decision yesterday to send a class home. Parents commented that they found the communications clear and timely, and felt the school had acted swiftly and appropriately.

In response to parent questions, Mr Barber explained:

- Guidance says the 14 day isolation period starts on the last day on which children had contact with the person who subsequently tested positive. Since this was Tuesday, we are counting Wednesday as Day 1.
- Guidance, and experience from neighbouring schools, says that children mixing outside pose less of a risk of cross contaminating bubbles. Since our year groups play together outside, but are separated into class bubbles whenever they are inside, we have been able to isolate one class rather than the year group. This week, in order to make this more robust, we have started sitting the children who eat hot lunches at class tables within their year group dining room.

- Each year group has sole use of either the Hall or Dining Hall to eat hot lunches. A bucket of cutlery and cups is placed on the table, to which they help themselves. When they leave the table, all unused cutlery and cups are removed, the table and chairs are cleaned, and a fresh bucket of bits is put on the table ready for the next sitting.
- In response to a question on the Zoom Chat, our risk assessment does not require regular staff in school to use PPE in the course of their normal duties, but our lunchtime supervisors, who assist in the Hall and Dining Hall, choose to do so. The kitchen staff, who are employed by Edwards and Ward, work to strict standards of food hygiene. Their Covid risk assessment does not recommend the use of additional PPE while serving food.
- In risk assessing the class closure, we cross referenced with breakfast club and after school club to see if any additional “bubbles” were affected. They weren’t. Breakfast Club and Schools Out maintain year group bubbles, rather than class bubbles. Shine clubs operate in two year bubbles. Parents are aware of this when signing children up: there is a risk that a Year 3 child might need to self-isolate if they attend a Shine club with a Year 4 child if the Year 4 class had to self-isolate.

The teachers of the class that is self-isolating are already communicating with the children via Teams and have a programme of home learning ready for them.

Home Learning Plan

Mr Barber showed a series of slides, screen shots and demonstrations of the school’s plans to support children learning at home. These are all attached to these notes. Video extracts from the meeting, along with other video guides, will all be available on the website.

HENSA

There is a Zoom meeting for the parents’ association next week on Tuesday 20th October at 8pm. An invitation will be sent out. It would be great to see lots of parents there, especially those new to the school, to share ideas for how to raise funds in these challenging times.

Points raised:

Internal school clubs: Sadly, the school will not be offering any lunchtime or after school enrichment clubs this year. It is too challenging to organise them in a Covid-safe way, and school staff are already working flat out managing the day to day teaching. We have to look after their wellbeing.

Parents evenings – The vast majority of meetings were conducted successfully this week, although one or two people experienced technical difficulties. If the technology plays up, teachers will contact parents to make alternative arrangements. We had considered using Microsoft Teams for these meetings, but this would have involved a lot of work setting up appointments, while the School Cloud system offered a much more streamlined process for booking and attending appointments. School Cloud also offers rigorous security around meetings, and ensure that meetings run to time. We’ve had lots of positive feedback. When we’ve completed all of this autumn’s meetings, we’ll review the system and take on board any learning from the experience.