

PARENT FORUM MEETING MINUTES

(4th /academic year 2018/19)

DATE: 3rd July 2019

Apologies

Head Teacher	Mr Dominic Bedford	P Sawle, L Donnellan
Deputy Head Teacher	Mr Alex Sallis	C Pickering, E Johansson
Nursery	Paola Sawle, Caroline Pickering	C Brennan, S Iaccarino,
Reception	Jenni Scott, Laura Donnellan	G Warwick Thompson
Year 1	Louise Giles, Emma Taylor	A Jenkins
Year 2	Anita Jenkins, Emma Johansson	
Year 3	Shirin Stewart, Claire Brennan	
Year 4	Lynda Archer, Ren Behan	
Year 5	Julie McConnell, Shana Iaccarino	
Year 6	Gillian Warwick Thompson, Danny Heading	

CYCLING PROFICIENCY - update

Mr Bedford has green-lit a proposal to re-instate the Cycling Proficiency Course for year 6s each June, from next year. "Cycling Proficiency" is provided through Hertfordshire County Council's approved providers and the booking window opens in January 2020.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

A number of queries were received regarding the scheduling of First Holy Communion at St Bartholomew's. These queries centred around the possibility of holding a dedicated First Holy Communion Mass at a time separate to the normal Saturday evening or Sunday morning masses.

It was noted that First Holy Communion is considered a "whole community" part of the church's annual calendar and that as such it was not something the school could intervene in.

Mr Bedford suggested that we might prefer as parents to make direct contact with Fr Francis or to speak with Michelle Fitzgerald (parish secretary) or with Bernie O'Shea.

THE DAILY MILE / THE ST ALBANS 2K FUN RUN

Mr Bedford explained that the focus was switched this year from The Daily Mile to 'Skip to be Fit' (held in the Autumn). And many children still use their skipping ropes to this day. The Daily Mile still goes on – but not on an organised basis.

Miss Bowen also regularly takes many of the older children off-campus at lunch time as part of a "cross country club".

Parents are invited to watch their children run the Golden Mile around the school pitch every morning before school, time permitting but this must be done by parents as it is not supervised.

The St Albans 2K Fun Run

Mr Bedford explained that as a single form entry school with just 1 dedicated PE teacher running classes and in excess of 60 events off campus each year, and an office staff already full stretched that he would not be under-taking the administration of running teams in this event.

But he is more than happy to have application forms on hand at the school office that parents can pick up to enter as families in their own right. One parent explained that this had been run by a sporting Mum at the school in the past – though not in the school's name (once the school name is attached then tight rules regarding safe guarding of all pupils make this prohibitive at this time).

BREAKFAST & AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS – SEPTEMBER 2019

Parents should remember to book places for their child(ren) directly with Club Kids to ensure that they secure a place for September. All communication should be with Club Kids and should not go through the school office.

Please refer to your school emails dated 01/06/19 entitled [Breakfast and After School Club at St Adrian's Catholic Primary School].

TEACHER ALLOCATIONS FOR NEXT YEAR

A letter will go out from Mr Bedford in the next few days detailing the teacher/ year group allocations.

TRANSPORT TO SPORTS EVENTS

Mr Bedford has previously explained that the school was unable to provide transport for pupils to and from sporting events held in school hours (occasionally held at difficult times of day for many working parents).

This is chiefly because were the school to become involved then it would have to organise and pay for DBS checks on all adults and would have to provide safeguarding training (as volunteer parents would be representing the school).

This year alone there were over 60 events held out of school grounds and the issue persists for many parents. L Archer will meet with Miss Bowen before the school's year end to work up a brief that can go out to tender in response to the number of parents who have expressed interest in paying for an external transport solution.

The school has re-iterated that this initiative must be parent-driven and all child safe-guarding criteria met. Parents will continue to liaise with the school in this matter.

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITY CLUBS

A question was raised regarding the proposed list of After-school Clubs provided through the school each term (such as craft club, cookery, football etc) – this list is in progress and it is very much the intention, as always, to distribute the list prior to the Summer holidays.

If any parent has any further suggestions then please get in contact direct or let your Parent Forum Rep know and they will pass on the details.

DISPOSABLE PACKAGING

In light of the school's increasing awareness of, and emphasis on eco-friendly initiatives; a number of parents raised awareness of the conflict of interest where letters go out for annual school trips requesting that we send children in with disposable water bottles and sandwich wrappers.

This has been taken on board and the conflict noted. In future parents will be asked to use re-usable packaging and usual water bottles.

INSET DAYS

A request was made to have inset days re-scheduled to allow for occasional long weekends instead of the current placement of inset days at the beginning of the school year or every other term. It was felt that this would be more affordable for many parents and would provide easier accessibility to children friendly activities on days where the majority of schools were 'back at school'.

Mr Bedford explained that as the inset days were for teacher training and were not "holidays" as such - that the school curriculum was set with this in mind. It was also felt to be more beneficial to parents to remain in line with the majority of other schools as many parents have children at multiple schools. And it also helped working parents who would otherwise have to organise child care.

PARENT CARS

A number of local residents have asked that the school respectfully ask parents to turn off their engines while waiting to collect their children.

Mr Bedford will have the ECO Warrior team at school draft up a letter that would come from the pupils to their parents reminding them of the dangers to the environment, and of the respect due to our local residents. The letter will also remind parents to park in the church car park.

A.O.B

D Heading made the fantastic suggestion of setting up a "Friends of St Adrian's" style Facebook page or email group in to which departing parents could opt in to remain in touch with the school. This would allow the school to communicate key initiatives, requests for help, news of the School Ball, Christmas Fairs and Summer Fairs and allow parents to keep in touch.

D Heading to investigate and initiate.

NEXT MEETING:

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday **23rd October at 2.00pm.**

Parent Forum members – please confirm whether you can continue in your role for the next academic year.