



# Newbottle and Charlton CEVA Primary School

'Let all that you do be done in love' ;Every person matters, every moment counts

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Headteacher- Mr Peter Smith

Chair of Governors- Mr Chris Coopman

## **Parent Forum Notes 18.4.24**

*Present: Mrs Palmer-LP (Ash and Birch), Mrs Harper (NH) Oak, Mrs Phillips JP- (Ash and Birch), Mr Smith (PS- Headteacher)*

*Email feedback from Mrs Tyler (Elm/Birch)*

PS discussed generally aims of Parent Forum as a way to strengthen communication within school. The idea is to share strengths and any small problems or suggestions for improvements. Feedback can be to forum members or email school. A reminder that any specific concerns regarding individuals families need to be shared to school directly using the appropriate means.

### **- Feedback from Freshstart**

- Some parents happy with choice this term compared to last time and some not happy.
- Feedback that sometimes puddings/fruit is running out or food running low and they are burnt, given scraps, deli only, 1 topping on jacket potatoes, bone in chicken, soggy vegetables- which some like, some hate.
- Some just like the themed days or don't like them as last time they got a sandwich.
- Some parents happy with meals and their children like the dinners offered- pizza and pasta.

**ACTION- PS to feedback to Area Manager of Freshstart and arrange a meeting with all those in KS2 who use to have lunch but now don't to give direct feedback to them about why they don't ask parents to sign them up. Parents to contact Freshstart directly also with any concerns or complaints.**

### **- School Uniform**

- Some feedback about uniform provider being super slow
- Some happy with provider apart from being super slow
- Feedback on letting Reception starters start ordering now
- Feedback that quality of branded jumpers is lower than a few years ago

**ACTION: PS to look at alternatives to see if any other ones are out there that have better feedback- Might need to be for next academic year.**

### **- Breakfast Club**

- Some parents from the younger years discussed a concern about the front door being left unlocked in the morning for coming into breakfast club and maybe could we fundraise for a system to unlock the door from inside the meadow.

**ACTION: PS to look into whether this is possible and costs or alternative ideas to aid security.**

### **- Certificates**

- Discussions had regarding certificates and that some children get more than others and whether children could have star certificates again.
- Parent Forum member explained that they had reminded parents of postcard and stickers

Reply from PS: Celebration assembly is only one to praise the children in the class- verbal praise, stickers, marking, positive postcards. We have far more ways to praise than we did before. Previous star certificates couldn't be consistently rolled out and research says it makes no impact on motivation or achievement.

**ACTION- PS to talk to the children reminding them to share their positive postcards with their families (like certificates but praise in the moment).**

#### - **Homework**

- Some feedback that they don't like the generalised homework and want it to be more specific to what they are learning. Don't like Seesaw. Some don't like sumdog or spelling shed and questions over the maths books being marked and could they have spelling lists.
- Some feedback that assignments don't link to learning in sumdog and spelling shed assignments haven't been set for children.

Reply from PS: It has always been a tricky to get the right balance for homework as each family wants different things. He tries to get the balance right- Electronic assignments and also paper assignments. Spelling shed lists were also given out on paper which means they can do it without a laptop/tablet if people want to. PS feels the general 'values' homework is important as this is something for not just academic achievement but personal development too. The main focus academically is reading, maths and spelling and other curriculum areas can be taught enough through lessons in class.

#### • **Rhino Academy Clubs/Kids Club**

- Some issues discussed about booking
- Some negative feedback on archery club but some positive feedback on clubs run by Mr Thompson from Rhino.

**Action: Parents who are unhappy on these clubs which are run by outside providers- Contact them directly. PS will also give general feedback to director of Rhino too.**

Reply from PS: Rhino are working with a number of other schools in the area, however most schools have limited extra clubs which makes it easier to book in advance and not as many people do clubs in general so it has been a surprise to them how there is a bigger uptake on clubs. The amount of children from archery was a big surprise and so if they do archery again, they will look into limiting numbers or year groups.

#### • **Clubs**

- Suggestions over clubs lists being given out the term before so they could book kidsclub in advance.
- Discussion that it was noted that there were more paid clubs and that didn't help families who were trying to keep costs down for wrap around.
- Feedback from parents at the forum noted that our school has more clubs than other schools and there are free options which lots of schools don't provide. Schools have strict lists when full but Charlton also tries to include all children who need a club and we are very lucky with what the school provides and maybe parents aren't aware what little other schools do.

Reply from PS: PS acknowledges the difference in free/paid clubs but agrees that the offer from the school is a lot more than others which he knows is hard for families to understand if this school is all they know. Staff who offer to do a club do so as a volunteer in their own time as there is no expectation as part of their job to run clubs, therefore some staff decide to volunteer their time for free while others do not.

#### - **Reading Records**

- Questions over whether children were reading regularly in school as reading records aren't filled in.
- Suggestions about having a stamp to acknowledge they have been reading in school.

Reply from PS- Children do read with adults regularly, some more than others depending on their need to practise reading.

**ACTION-** PS will discuss with staff about ensuring they record in some way that their child has read- like a stamp.

#### AOB

- Feedback that a parent felt emails weren't replied to- **ACTION PS to check as generally we always reply but they may have gone to junk.**
- Feedback that a parent felt the ways to communicate had too many options and to limit them (Many parents thought the opposite and liked the different ways to communicate). **PS Reply-** As the majority of parents like the different channels that we send out information we will continue with this unless we get more feedback.
- Suggestion about writing class or year name of texts being sent out- **ACTION-PS to feedback to office.**
- Feedback asking about whether summer holiday club was going on- **ACTION PS to let them know ASAP.**
- Feedback that Longtown Assembly needed to be later on after 5pm due to work and childcare. Reply- PS did a vote a few weeks ago and 3:40pm was the most popular one, so went with that. Other parent forum agreed this way was fair for all. PS also said he was sending out lots of information today. Whatever time he would decide there would always be parents who wouldn't be able to make it.
- Feedback that one parent thoughts the newsletter was too busy- **ACTION- To look into this and change if needed.**
- Feedback asking as Year 2 Sats is not going on this year are schools doing something to prepare them for tests in the future. **PS Reply-** Children take part in assessments (Tests) in lots of different forms from 3 times a year until the end of year 6. We currently use Reading tests from NFER and Maths tests from Whiterose.

Notes by Psmith

Agreed by Parent Forum Members