



October 15

Dear Parents,

Parent Partnership is an informal meeting between teachers and parents and an opportunity to have a discussion about topics relating to school life. Thanks go to representatives who gave up their time to attend Parent Partnership in October. We would be delighted to have representation from our Nursery Parents at the next meeting which is on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015 at 2pm. Please speak to a member of staff or one of the parents below if you are interested and would like a little more information.

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R	Mrs Solanki	Mrs Caulson
1	Charlotte Bennett By email	
2	Mrs Daniel	Mrs Bywater
Staff	Katy Morrison	Sarah Church

**Areas of discussion included:**

**Induction**

Parents felt that the gradual approach to both nursery and reception classes was of benefit to the children and allowed them time to adjust to new routines, especially after the long summer holiday. However, it was also said that sorting child care for these initial few days can be difficult. Orchids Childcare is an option as they are flexible for these few days, which can be extremely useful.

A Parent queried how the flexible days (mornings or afternoons) are allocated for induction. They are allocated depending if children have had a morning or afternoon place during the previous year at the school nursery. Children new to the school are allocated between the morning and afternoon sessions.

A parent asked for a prompt sheet to help to discuss with children what they have been doing at school. Parents can use the weekly newsletter to help with this at home.

For new parents the drop off point and collection point for Reception children was difficult to see. It was also difficult for parents to see if their child had entered through the door.

Parents have been asked not to cross the red line at the bottom of the ramp leading to the Reception entrance. This leaves the ramp clear with staff at the bottom of the ramp and the top to ensure that children come into school safely. Teaching Assistants taking notes from parents are now to the side at the bottom

of the ramp which has alleviated congestion at that point. We ask parents to move away quickly to ensure that the children can access school safely. It has been a period of adjustment as there is an additional class entering the building. The Reception children will also become more confident with school routines and this will help at these busy times of the day.

There was a suggestion made about lining up at the start of the day. However, the 10 minute flexibility at the start of the school day does help parents with children in other schools. It also prevents children leaving the line and re-joining, again making it difficult to see who is in the line.

Parents commented that Mrs Farkas being visible mid-ramp at the start of the day was useful to parents as they were able to point her out to children.

### **Anti-bullying policy and rewards policy**

These are both available on the school website.

#### **Rewards policy:**

Each class has its own class rules in addition to the school Golden Rules. These are displayed in each classroom.

Parents were talked through the various rewards in operation throughout the school. These included, stickers (for an instant reward), Golden Time, Star of the day (awarded to one child daily per class for years 1 and 2), a visit to the Headteacher, Headteacher award, star cards (awarded in assembly), celebration assembly (achievements outside school) and raffle tickets which allow a child to enter a raffle held once a week and perhaps win a prize

Parents felt that rewards (especially stickers and certificates) are a useful way of seeing how well their child was doing at school and that children respond positively to these. The group agreed that good behaviour should be expected and that it was important that children understood why they had received their rewards. Of course young children may find it difficult to retain this information and relay it to parents later on!

For children who find following school rules challenging, the policy also outlines sanctions, which may include warnings, time out and missing part of Golden Time or a visit to the Headteacher. If needed, school will also set up a Parent and School communication booklet. For more detail, refer to school policy document.

#### **Anti-bullying policy:**

Parents read the policy. Parents are told about any incident which is considered to be bullying. Both parents of the victim and parents of the perpetrator are informed so that solutions can be found. Discussion around worry boxes which are used in year 1 and 2 and allow children to write any concerns down and post them into the box. A suggest was put forward that perhaps a similar but much simpler system of smiley/sad faces could be introduced in reception.

Parents were invited to take the policy document home and to make any comments on this and return by 23.10.15.

### Walking bus:

The Local Authority are keen to set up a walking bus. A walking bus consists of an adult collecting children from a designated meeting point and then walking children up to school. It is good for exercise, can support working parents and may reduce congestion.

However, Parents had a number of concerns;

- the age of the children and the responsibility for the person walking young children up to school over busy roads.
- the practicality of one adult carrying many book bags etc., and any medication etc. for a group of children.
- Parents also commented that for many parents they are dropping off at school because they are then immediately going onto work.

Suggestion from Parents;

- timed parking restrictions along Lawnswood Avenue?
- Increased storage for bikes/scooters as existing storage does not meet demand
- A suggestion was made that perhaps it would be easier for a walking bus to happen for the junior age children rather than younger ages.
- It was suggested that one pick up point could be the Junior Schools as this might then also help with parents trying to get between two schools.

### Spellings

The curriculum requirements have changed so school are reviewing their approach to the teaching of spellings. The new system will be introduced at the beginning of next half-term.

### INSET days

There was a suggestion that there is an 'INSET week' rather than individual days. However, due to linked Junior Schools, Secondary Schools and collaborative working between schools, this would be difficult to co-ordinate. Some parents also preferred individual days as it helped with child care. Also, young children can quickly forget about school routines after a longer break.

### **Next Meeting**

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015 @ 2pm