



February 17

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 February. We would be delighted to have representation from our Nursery and Reception Parents at the next meeting. 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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1		Mrs Gardner	
2	Mrs Brown		
Staff	Mrs Farkas	Mrs Morrison	Mrs Church

Areas of discussion included:

Parking - The vast majority of parents support the school in trying to alleviate traffic congestion outside of school, which is caused by the poor parking behaviours of some parents. We would like to thank the pro-active group of Parents and Grandparents who are supporting school by lobbying local Councillors to engage with the Highways Department to consider parking restrictions and safety measures on Lawnswood Avenue. If you feel that you have a contribution to make please contact the school office who will pass on your details. Meanwhile all photographs and reports of illegal or unsafe parking are logged in school and shared periodically with Council representatives. We are currently waiting for funding from SMBC to enable us to recruit staff for a walking bus from September 2017.

Curriculum - *Some parents are concerned that the Children in Year 2 learn about the experiences of children in the Second World War as it upsets them.* It is our experience, confirmed by parents, that other children find this topic fascinating and enjoy learning about this historical event. Our curriculum is based on statutory guidance from the Department for Education and designed by qualified teachers in school. All aspects of the historical events covered are age appropriate and prepare children for more in depth learning about this event when they get to Junior School and beyond.

Staffing on the doors in the morning - *would it be possible for the teachers rather than the support staff to be on the doors?* Teachers in school are usually teaching

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from 8.30am or 8.50am. Therefore, the staffing of the doors falls to the support staff who communicate messages back to the teacher that they support. Teachers are, of course, visible on the doors and available to speak to at the end of the school day. If you specifically wish to speak to a teacher in the morning you are very welcome to make an appointment.

Reading Books -

Reception - Some parents have reported that their children are not inspired by the reading books that they take home in Reception. Many of the reading books that children use to learn to read in Reception are phonics based. Children are now expected to meet a phonic standard that is set by Government. This means that young children need a firm foundation, and secure knowledge of Phonics. Some of the reading books that Reception children take home facilitate the learning of phonic skills. Of course we recognise the need for children to see themselves as readers and to enjoy reading which we believe is the cornerstone of education. Therefore, children have lots of other opportunities in school to access a wide variety of genre and to see adults reading as role models. We would encourage all parents to provide complimentary books for children to read that are appropriate to their level of skill and they have chosen themselves either from the local library (use it or lose it!) or a book shop.

Year 2 - Some parents feel that the current study of William Shakespeare in Year 2 is not appropriate and that perhaps another author should be studied. The children study many different authors and genre during their time at Blossomfield and the English unit of work designed around the works of William Shakespeare has been very carefully planned to ensure that it is accessible for Year 2 children. The reading books that the children are using are written in Modern English rather than Early Modern English and tell the story without the added complication of Shakespeare's complex sentence structures and use of now obsolete words. We believe that knowledge of Shakespeare will make the study of his works later on in their educational career less intimidating.

As I write I have just had the pleasure of talking to Rowan class who have returned from the RSC theatre in Stratford-Upon-Avon. All of the children were excited and inspired by their visit and could talk enthusiastically about their experience of studying Shakespeare, his plays, their current reading books and the theatre visit.

Brainhouse Academy Kenyan School - parents have reported that their children have enjoyed the assembly and further learning about this volunteer-led charity that aims to advance the education and health of the vulnerable children that attend the Brainhouse Academy situated in Mathare North, Kenya - one of the world's largest slums. Liz Formby came into school and talked to the children about how they could help and support those children who are less well off than themselves and as usual our children and families have responded in an empathetic and supportive manner.

Blossomfield Expansion - The expected date of completion for the new Foundation Stage Unit is 19th May 2017. The building work is now progressing quickly and the building is taking shape. We are anticipating that Hazel class and the Nursery class will

move at Easter and that is what we are planning for. Please see the message below from Steve Ball, the contracts manager from Interclass.



Interclass

Interclass plc
Building Contractors

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Blossomfield Infants School Building Update

Hello, everyone.

Things are moving ahead well since our last update with the external brickwork 90% complete and internal blockwork 95% complete. The plywood to the pitched roof is almost complete with the sealing layer of felt due to commence making the front section of the building water tight. The Joists to the flat roof are programmed to be lifted onto the flat roof area on one of the upcoming weekends so allowing us to use the playground for the crane.



Interclass PLC would like to take this opportunity to thank the School, parents and children for their cooperation and understanding while the construction works are in progress.

Steve Ball
Contracts Manager



National
Federation of
Builders



CHARTERED
BUILDING
COMPANY



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



A member of the Interclass Group
Registered in England No. 2317072
V.A.T. Registration No. GB 754 5306 30

Sports Day

Will Year 2 have a sports day this year? Last year we held our sports day at Shirley Heath School and this was very successful. We have scheduled a sports day for the summer term for Year 2 and Shirley Heath School have already offered to host.

School Development Priorities - The priorities for Blossomfield in 2016-17 are outlined below, and were discussed in greater depth at the meeting.

Achievement
Priority 1 <u>English</u> - Writing Foundation Stage – Communication <u>Maths</u> – Problem Solving <u>Vulnerable Pupils</u> – To be Junior Ready
Leadership & Management
Priority 2 <u>School Expansion</u> <u>Blossomfield Childcare</u>
Teaching
Priority 3 <u>KS1 Growth Mind-set</u>
Behaviour and Safety
Priority 4 <u>Attendance</u>

Key Stage 1 Results for 2015-16

% of children at the expected standard or higher				
	Reading	Writing	Maths	Phonics
Blossomfield	88	82	88	92
National	74	65	73	81
Solihull	79	70	76	84

Next Meeting

Tuesday 28th March 2017 @ 9am