



**February 2018**

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 if we had a representative from Year 2 at the next meeting.

Nursery	Mrs Chapman		
Reception	Mrs Fryer (Maple)	Mrs Parfitt (Birch)	
Year 1	Mrs Brown (Willow)		
Year 2	Mrs Love	Mrs Gardner	
Staff	Mrs Farkas	Mrs Morrison	Mrs Sarah Church
Apologies were received from Mrs Parfitt			

**School Topics**

School Development Plan

A summary of the curriculum areas that school are focusing on in the School Development Plan this year can be found on the school website. The Inspection Data Summary Report for 2016-17 states that, 'In 2017, attainment in all subjects was above average and in the highest 10% for all pupils'. Blossomfield is always looking for opportunities to improve and so have identified areas where marginal gains might make a positive impact.

An intervention has been put in place to increase the confidence of a targeted group of girls in order for them to develop the skills needed to go beyond the age related expectation of 'secure' to 'greater depth'.

In Writing the school is working on quality of content and stamina in writing. An initiative called, 'The Write Stuff' is being used and this gives the children visual prompt tools to guide them through the writing process.

Growth Mindset, which is currently being embedded in KS1, is included in the plan.

PHSE was also discussed, with parents hearing that Jigsaw had been bought in as a package by the Local Authority and this had been received well by staff and the children.

Accessibility Plan

The new Accessibility Policy has been drafted and is available to view on the website currently for feedback.

The group was made aware that the age of the school building meant that some areas are not fully accessible, and that steps and slopes were challenging in some locations. The Accessibility policy also covers access to information and details relating to the school, including written material and information being sent home. The whole of the new building is fully accessible, with doorway and access corridors meeting new building regulations. Parents heard that the school is able to accommodate requests in older areas of the building, with reasonable adjustments. This is supported by specialist advice and covers all aspects of day to day use, not just learning. Parents agreed that it was important for the school to use the 'reasonable adjustment' test as funds spent on addressing individual need may mean less funds available for wider teaching and learning resources. If anyone notifies the school in advance of accessibility concerns they will do their best to make suitable arrangements. Any feedback on the draft plan would be appreciated.

Parent Partnership

### Parent Consultation meetings

Blossomfield are introducing an electronic system for meetings, which will start this term. There will be one twilight (4-6pm) slot and two evening (6-7pm) slots available over a 2 week period to give parents the best opportunity of attendance. A number of the parents present had used similar systems with other providers and felt this would be a good step forward. Parents are reminded that sibling bookings are not linked and so it's important to arrange your schedules accordingly. All data security checks have been carried out before signing up for the system to ensure it was compliant with GDPR. Parents were asked about their experience of using the system for other events and workshops.

### Parent Topics

#### Equipment

Parents wished to give positive feedback about the new equipment in school, that their children loved the new area and were very excited to have access to it.

#### Nativity and Christmas

Parents expressed thanks and support for the staff for their effort and energy to deliver the school nativities. Despite the snow days and re-scheduling they had been very much appreciated. A very big thank you to all staff involved.

Some parents asked about crèche being made available, as it had been for workshops. This is being considered for next year so that younger siblings can be cared for whilst parents attend performances.

Some parents wanted to thank teachers for sending thank you cards for gifts that had been received.

#### Yr2 topic - Shakespeare

Parents had positive feedback regarding this topic, reporting the children's enthusiasm. The local connection means that Parents can continue with the learning beyond the school gate.

#### Teacher transition

Some Birch class parent's reported that there had been a smooth transition in teachers.

Any parent who would like to meet Mrs Chaudhury is encouraged to support the upcoming sewing sessions in Year 2. There will, of course, also be an opportunity to meet Mrs Chaudhury on parents' evening after half term.

#### Yr 2 spellings

Some parents expressed concern that children were disheartened by not achieving 'green' for their homework and weekly tests. YR 2 teachers have recently adjusted the teaching of spelling patterns and strategies are now in place to give more support. Some parents requested materials for support at home. However, this would take time away from teaching in classroom and therefore be counter-productive. Everyone acknowledged the value of children feeling some sense of achievement and Mrs Morrison will liaise with the English lead to see if any other homework options might be possible. Teacher assessments changed in 2014 and children need to be able to apply their spelling pattern in their writing.

#### After school clubs

There was positive feedback regarding the introduction of different clubs. Clubs have been re-established from Monday through to Thursday. The school hall has been kept free on Friday for other events and to support PTA activities. These clubs are run by external providers.

#### School Exits

Parents asked about signposting the gates, *In* and *Out*. It was noted this had been raised previously, a letter was sent to parents in the autumn term. The *In* gate is in use throughout the day and the *Out* gate locked at 9am and not used again until 3pm. Signposting the gates would be confusing to other visitors who use the site throughout the day.

### Lunch and Dinner Buddies

Parents asked about these roles. Year 2 children act as lunchtime and corridor buddies to support other children to make good choices, for example simple reminders on walking, picking coats up and tidying things away. They also help the Reception children with putting on coats.

### World Book Day

Parents asked if there was any policy in supporting those with home-made outfits receiving prizes rather than bought costumes for celebrating this event. This is a decision for individual teachers to make and that the key point of the day was to actually get children talking about books and reading.

### Golden time

There has been a change to 'Golden Time', and this is now built into the weekly timetable instead of being set to the last hour of Friday. Teachers now engage the pupils in deciding what they would need to do to achieve their reward and what activity they would like as a reward.

### Planters on Eastcote Drive

The planters at the end of Eastcote close have received mixed reviews with Nursery parents, in particular, commenting positively. A group of parents and Grandparents have worked with the school to try to get railings on both corners. The planters were Solihull Council's preferred solution to the issue of parking on the pavement.

### Scooter Park

Great news that a further site had been earmarked and parents hoped this would be in place for next winter. Consideration of solar powered lighting was raised for the current shed. This has been explored, as has solar power for the school, however due to current Government policy on solar power it was not a cost effective option.

### Forest School - Yr 1

Parent's feedback had been good for this and the mixture of locations was discussed. There were 2 venues and their use was weather dependent, offering alternative play and learning opportunities.

### Yr2 WW2 Resource - Spywatch

This topic was raised again as some parents felt this resource was not suitable for this year group. This had been discussed in the autumn term and a questionnaire carried out with all Year 2 parents and children participating. The result showed that the vast majority enjoyed the topic and resource. The holistic nature the resource covering history literacy and PSED makes it valuable and it will continue to be used. If any parent has concerns they are encouraged to liaise directly with the class teacher.

### Healthy Eating

A concern was raised that children were being allowed to give sweets out at the end of the school day on their birthday and how this might conflict with the healthy eating message that school promotes for lunchboxes.

Historically children have been allowed to share sweets for the celebration of their birthday as part of customs and rituals. Sweets are always distributed at the end of the school day and not consumed in school time. Therefore parents can decide whether they allow their child to eat them.

Thanks to Mrs Lisa Fryer for taking the minutes.

**NEXT MEETING: Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2018 @ 9am**