

Parent Forum Minutes



Meeting: Spring term meeting of the Sherard Parent Forum

Date and time: 26th February 2024 at 5:30pm

Location: Sherard Primary School

In attendance Parents:

- Pia Delucchi
- Rebecca Partington
- Hannah Mansell
- Jenny Harley

Staff:

- Helena Blumfield – Headteacher
- Anna Duval – MET Clerk

Welcome and Introductions

Mrs Blumfield welcomed everyone to the meeting. The aim of the parent forum is to hear parents voice, for parents to put forward ideas and for open discussions to take place. Parents can suggest topics or subject areas they would like to discuss or receive training in, and relevant school staff can be invited to present at meetings. These parent forums do not discuss items relating to specific pupils, specific parents, or individual staff.

A MS Forms was sent to all parents in advance of the meeting to give feedback and raise questions to the parent forum. There were 4 responses and these were used to shape discussions.

In your opinion, what works well?

- Communication is good.
- Communication. Very happy.
- Children are very happy and have lots of activity in the school week. I love that they have 2 PE sessions per week rather than just one.
- Some very supportive members of staff who work very hard to make things great for the children.

In your opinion, what could be improved?

- The communication between school and parents is chaotic. It is difficult to find information in past posts on the app and easy to miss things. It's also incredibly difficult not knowing which afterschool clubs' children are doing until the day before term starts. I have to collect two other

children from different places at the end of each day as well as working full time. How am I supposed to organise childcare and transport with less than a days' notice?

- Weduc! I feel that Weduc has had a negative impact on home / school communication. Dojo and gateway seemed to work much better and be far more positive. Also, communication in general does not seem to be as smooth and efficient as it used to be at Sherard, not sure if this is just linked to Weduc, for example, school dinners are regularly not able to be booked this never used to be a problem. We were told that going forward we would be told about clubs before the holiday so that parents could put childcare in place in advance but this only happened once and when it came to clubs again, it was all last minute the day before without much warning.

Please add anything else you would like to discuss.

- Why can I drop my children to breakfast club in the carpark but cannot park in the school carpark to collect from action pack past 5pm when after school clubs have finished.
- Year 3 so far has been a hard time individually for different home reasons but the support has been amazing. Just want to say thank you to them both.

Clubs

Mrs Blumfield will ensure that information about clubs goes out to parents in advance in the future. Parents said they would like information in advance to help them plan.

Parents said there is a good offer of clubs available. Mrs Blumfield said that staff offer clubs in their own time and the schools pays a sports specialist to deliver sport clubs. There are a number of SATs revision clubs this half term.

Weduc

Mrs Blumfield said that Weduc has got a little better but parents discussed how they were still experiencing user issues in finding posts.

Mrs Blumfield will feedback to the MET data manager to liaise with Weduc.

Parents said Weduc is working so much better at other schools in the MET (Brownlow and The Grove) They link posts to letters with information and also link information on events from the calendar. Mrs Blumfield said this would be a useful feature and will look into Sherard doing this.

Mrs Blumfield said she will ask staff to share class activities regularly on Weduc.

Parents asked if half termly information could be provided to parents as a reminder of PE days, swim days etc. Parents asked if teachers could share links to the curriculum maps. Mrs Blumfield said the curriculum maps are on the website but will ask for this information to be shared with parents along with a half termly reminders.

Car park

Mrs Blumfield said it a staff car park. Up to 7:45am parents can access it. From 7.45am and after school it is a staff car park.

School Dinners

Parents discussed the menu options weren't always showing on Weduc but it can be showing as working from the admin side.

School trips

There are overnight trips in year 6 only. Mrs Blumfield said this is due to the high costs involved to parents and therefore feels unable to offer them wider.

The current year 6's are going to Caythorpe Court PGL Centre for 4 nights/5 days. They are planning to do the same next year. Parents asked if the costs could be spread over a longer period of time to start saving from year 5.

Parents asked why the 2021/22 year 6 cohort didn't go on a residential trip. Mrs Blumfield said she will find out why this year group did not have a residential trip.

Parents said they would like an overnight trip for earlier years, e.g. in year 4. Mrs Blumfield said it was something that the school may consider in the future.

Parents asked if year 1s will be going on a school day trip. Mrs Blumfield said each year group normally do a trip out each year. Year 1 may go to the park to find local links.

E-safety

Parents said the e-safety information evening was good.

Family reading

Reading takes place every Wednesday morning plus one afternoon each half term as requested previously at a parent forum. Parents suggested offering different mornings occasionally to allow other parents to attend. Mrs Blumfield will consider this moving forward.

Assemblies

Parents said every year group used to do a class assembly to parents for children to share their learning. There were also craft sessions that parents could attend. Parents said they felt there are less opportunities for parents to come into school and without these events the teacher parent relationship changes. Mrs Blumfield said that classes sharing their learning sounds good rather than fully rehearsed assemblies that require lots of rehearsals that may take away from children's learning. Mrs Blumfield said this was something to consider for the new academic year.

Mrs Blumfield said phonics workshops are planned for later this year.

Parents asked if there could be an evening performance of the KS1 Christmas performance. Mrs Blumfield said the school will consider this option.

Mrs Blumfield thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

The meeting closed at 18:20pm