

Parent Forum Minutes



CHILDREN COME FIRST.

Meeting:	Summer term meeting of the Sherard Parent Forum
Date and time:	22nd June 2023 at 5:00pm
Location:	Sherard Primary School
In attendance	Parents: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Charlotte Boxall• Luke Boxall• Pia Delucchi Staff: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Helena Blumfield – Headteacher• Anna – MET Clerk (Minutes)

Welcome and Introductions

Mrs Blumfield welcomed everyone to the meeting and said parent forums have taken place at Sherard for a number of years. 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 seven responses, and these were used to shape discussions.

Update from the previous meeting:

Lunch options: At the last parent forum parents discussed that the lunch options were limited, especially for packed lunches. Mrs Blumfield said they listened to this feedback and that the school has spoken to the catering company and more packed options are now provided. Mrs Blumfield said she checked to see what was the most popular sandwich option was with children and it was ham.

Communication via Gateway: At the last meeting parents said they did not always receive responses to messages sent via Gateway. It was agreed that the admin team would send a communication to parents to clarify to which type of messages they should expect a response to.

Mrs Blumfield said that a new system called Weduc has been introduced and explained it to parents. See discussion section below.

Reading morning: At the last meeting parents thought the reading morning was a good idea but thought the organisation of it could be improved. Seniors Leaders observed the sessions and found that although the sessions are busy there are many spots available in the main corridor or in classrooms for parents to sit with their child. Reading mornings take place each Wednesday morning at drop off time between 8:35-8:55. The reading mornings help promote reading, the love of reading and allows parents to view some good practice of reading through seeing teachers reading with children and using phonics.

Parents asked if there was an option to hold reading mornings on a second day of the week for those parents who are unable to attend on a Wednesday. Mrs Blumfield said she was considering offering reading mornings on alternative days. Parents suggested asking parents the preferred day to hold reading mornings via a survey.

Feedback from Parents What is Working Well.

Parents said the following was working well on the MS Forms replies:

- Curriculum, behaviour, clubs, and lunchtime activities, online booking/cancelling of breakfast club/action pack.
- Sunday night update of the week. Drop off and pick up times.
- Very friendly and supportive staff and atmosphere around school.
- Communication.
- Everything is okay
- I believe that everything is great love the new Weduc app.
- He likes his teacher and doesn't complain about anything specific.

Feedback from Parents: Things to Improve?

Parents said the following things to improve on the MS Forms replies:

- School lunches - allergy children and flexibility/communication with someone from Taylor Shaw so that a mutual understanding can be reached with what's on offer and constraints of rules etc.

Mrs Blumfield said that she had a meeting with the catering company to discuss the restrictive menus. The company say they can't change menus without the approval of a dietician. Mrs Blumfield is awaiting feedback from the catering company, Taylor Shaw, as to how the allergy menu choice can be improved.

- Communication between parents and teachers, dates on next year holiday dates so not all given in sept at last minute please.

Mrs Blumfield said that the term dates for 2023/24 are on the school website. The calendar dates of school events will be sent out to parents at the start of the next academic year.

- School meals. More trips, children have little to look forward too. Sports day was a joke. My child did two races whilst others participated in most.

Mrs Blumfield said that the school aims to arrange events each half term. There is a residential trip for Year 6 children.

Mrs Blumfield said at sports day there was a carousel of sport stations that children move around plus two track races. Children from each class are divided between colour groups and all children take part. Spare lanes may have been filled on occasions.

Mrs Blumfield will continue to review opportunities for children on sports day.

- I'm okay with the current set up.
- food at dinner time 🤖😂.

Would you be interested in any parent workshops held by the school, led by teachers?

Half of the respondents said they would be interested.

Are there any specific information evenings or training you would to see?

- Online safety and preparing parents for teenage years specifically with social media in mind.
- Best to help kids with their homework.
- Only parents evening.

Mrs Blumfield is inviting a police officer to give a talk in assembly to children about social media safety. Staff training in August will include the updated 'Keeping children safe in education' training that has a large section on children's online safety. A training session will be offered to parents in the autumn term on online safety and how parents can monitor their child's online usage.

Parents asked what the school policy is with children bringing mobile phones to school. Mrs Blumfield said that only years 5 and 6 may bring mobile phones as they may need them for their journey to and from school, but they must be handed in to the office and collected at the end of the school day.

Please add anything else you would like to discuss.

- You need to make parents forum, friends of sherard more appealing to the wider community. It seems a very closed of group of the same people.

Mrs Blumfield said that all parents are welcome to attend. This meeting included new parents attending their first parent forum.

- Homework and sports.
- I was unable to attend the last parents evening will there be another before the end of the school year?

Mrs Blumfield said she asked parents whether they prefer in-person or online parents evening. The response was half and half. In-person parents meetings took place in October and online parents meetings took place in February/March. School reports have been sent to parents and there is an option to contact the class teacher for feedback.

Discussions

Weduc.

Mrs Blumfield described the new communication system that is being introduced. Weduc is being introduced during the summer term so that it can be in place for the start of the new academic year.

Weduc will include all things together on one platform and will include communication and payments instead of the previous separate systems. It also has the option to add other functions and allows collaboration across the Trust for example safeguarding information and good practice.

The school administrator has held a trouble shooting surgery for parents to bring their devices and get help and has also attended the coffee morning session to support parents in navigating Weduc. Additionally, parents can email or ring the school for support.

Parents suggested that frequently asked questions could be provided to answer parents questions.

There is a how to guide available. Parents suggested that the how to guide is sent separately to parents by email.

Notifications are sent to parents from Weduc. In some instances, it was noted that both parents might not be both receiving notifications when one is set as a primary carer. If they contact admin@sherardschool.org this can be set for both parents to receive notifications.

Previously the food booking systems on gateway would regularly crash on a Sunday evening. Weduc will include the food menus and booking system.

Mrs Blumfield said that Weduc will allow an improved communication system with parents.

School social media.

Mrs Blumfield said that the school and Trust promotes the school on its twitter, Instagram, and Facebook accounts to share events that have taken place in the school.

Clubs.

Parents said there is a good choice of clubs available. Mrs Blumfield said that the clubs are delivered by staff and there is a sports coach who will be working 3-days a week next year. She gave examples of some clubs including Hama Beads club, kindness club, chess club, reading club, newspaper club, debating club plus a range of sporting clubs. Some of the clubs run for a number of week, others are offered longer. There are unfortunately limited spaces in each so clubs are offered to those that haven't done it before to give opportunities to all children. Children in reception do not do clubs as it is too tiring, and their lunch takes longer.

Sunday post. Mrs Blumfield does a Sunday post each Sunday evening to parents. Parents felt this was informative.

Pick up and drop off.

The school has offered guidance. Children in Year 4 and below need to be brought to school by an adult and passed over to the staff. It is not suitable for an older sibling to bring younger siblings. Children in years 5 and 6 may arrive and leave school on their own.

Mrs Blumfield thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

The next Parent Forum meeting will be arranged in the autumn term. The meetings take place at different times across the year to enable more parents to attend.

The meeting closed at 6.10pm.