

**Community Forum Meeting -
2.30pm Tuesday 1st December 2020 via Zoom.**

Present - Lydia Brown (Y5 and Y3), Donna Richardson (Y5), Emma Lishman (Y3), Lorna Young (R and Y3), Liz Rycroft (Church and Governor), Kelly Kingwell (Y3 and 6), Amanda Somerwill

Apologies - Emma Kirk (Y2 and Y5), Kate Frost (Y4), Annie Jinks (Y2 and Y6)

How are things for parents and families? - financial, health, mental wellbeing

- Parents spoke about their difficulties with teaching at home during the summer term. AS explained why all schools had different approaches to home learning, with Kenn and Kenton having a higher percentage of key worker children attending than National and compares with all other local and Trust schools.
- Parents expressed concern about possible future school closures linked to the virus. Parents asked for support with Google Classrooms, so that they could better help their children. AS to arrange this.
- Parents expressed thanks that there is slightly less homework at present and that this being sent home online made things easier.
- AS asked parents present that if they know any families who was struggling financially or with their health or mental health to direct them towards school so that they can be supported.

Is there anything that you would like to know about how the school is working at present?

- Concern expressed about children's mental health due to the new lockdown/ lack of community events/ lack of fun stuff. Parents appreciated Theatre Alibi coming in to school earlier in the term and asked about the possibility of trips out and why the Y5s and 6s could not stay overnight at Grenville House. AS explained about a lot of educational experiences not taking schools groups at present and that under the Government guidelines to schools residential are not currently permitted for all schools. Also that the lack of a new federation minibus is due to slow delivery of new vehicles at present. AS also explained that school trips would be resumed as soon as possible.
- It was asked if the school had considered increasing the size of bubbles so that they covered Key Stage 1 (class 1 and 2) and Key Stage 2 (classes 3 and 4). AS said that this had been considered but that the risk of classes having to self-isolate would increase with the increased size of the bubbles. AS to discuss with staff and Governors initially.

What have we learnt from our children from this? - independence, need for routine, need for social links friends and familiar adults

- Discussed how independent the Reception children have been this year.

- Discussed how during the first lockdown that the key worker children were amazing at making friends so quickly.
- Discussed that the experience has taught us the clear focus and importance of routine, and social contact for our children's good mental health.

What have we learnt that we would like to continue into the future? That we would definitely like to stop?

- Less and online homework is better.
- No Christmas cards and presents takes away a lot of extra stress for families.
- The use of Zoom or phone calls for Parents' Evenings and other meetings is welcome.
- Weekly chats with teachers and friends was really important to the children and they looked forward to them. Teachers also took the time to check in with parents. It's important to include such support for the child, and occasionally the parent, in any future lockdown planning.

Are there any other difficulties not discussed that you would like us to try to address as a school?

- Discussed the amount of water that the children have access to - are water bottles being filled during the day if needed. AS said that staff would do this is required.
- Concern about the portion size of school lunches expressed. Photos of the portions from 1/12/2020 attached. Parents recognise that this is very difficult to monitor as this varies so much from child to child.



- Asked if when the next item about parking outside of school goes out to parents please could it be stated that Disabled Badge Holders are exempt from the restrictions.
- The involvement of the school in the community Christmas tree decorations and the making of nativity stones was discussed. AS very happy for the school to be involved.

Next meeting - 1.00pm Tuesday 26th January 2021