

Parent Forum – Wednesday 21st June 2017 at 9am

1. What can school do about traffic on Salisbury Road and the safety of the children coming to and from school?

Mr Bless: this is an ongoing issue. The local area has grown with a larger volume of people travelling during drop-off and collection times.

School cannot regulate traffic, but continuously appeals to families through our newsletter.

Opening the Early Learners' gate is not practical, as the car park is for staff and visitors. We experienced drivers speeding towards the closing gate and also inside the car park. One member of staff was injured as a result.

Solutions are:

- to leave car at home and walk;
- come to school on time and find parking spaces elsewhere, walk the remaining distance;
- Walking bus – we would welcome parents arranging this – please get in touch with Mrs Rees through the school office

The Local Authority is aware of the issues and is looking at alternative, affordable options.

We would ask that parents role model sensible commuter behaviour to their children: demonstrating how to use the road safely, keeping calm in front of their child as this affects their learning when they arrive at school.

2. Parents dropping litter in residents' front garden, cars with loud music and speeding in Salisbury Road

Mr Bless: It is disappointing this happens. A good relationship between the families and local community is important. Depending on the urgency, residents can contact the police and gather evidence to support their case. Parents could form an action group and could maybe handout a leaflet on 'good code of conduct'.

3. Scooters and Bikes are still seen used in the playground

Despite previous requests, there are still parents and children on scooters and bikes in the playground.

Miss Clarke: children will be reminded in assembly this Friday. The School Council will be asked to come up with some suggestions for a leaflet that will be given out as a reminder.

4. Classroom and behaviour

Concerns were raised that when one or two children repeatedly disrupt the class learning, the whole class may lose all or part of their break. Why everyone should be punished when it is only one or two?

Both Mr Bless and Miss Clarke said this should not be happening as strategies are in place through a positive behaviour policy and reward system based around our school values. We also have

Learning Mentors and a range of sanctions such as break time detentions, escorted lunches, fixed term and permanent exclusions.

Parents with concerns should firstly speak to the class teacher; they can book a meeting to see them. We would also ask parents to speak to their child and explain to them the right thing to do in situations where someone is misbehaving in class.

5. Splitting Classes – will that happen this year?

Miss Clarke: This year we will be splitting the classes as usual; this is to help children to form new friendships and to balance classes due to high mobility. Children are asked who they would like to be with and we will be having 3 mornings in July where they will go into their new class. There may be some further changes after this period.

6. School Shoes – there is concern that a number of pupils don't wear the agreed black shoes

Mr Bless: Yes, they should be black on top and the soles. ALL children should be wearing them. Parents have said they want this, alongside the school uniform as we then have no showing off with some children in expensive items, reducing pressure on children and families.

7. Newsletter – why is there no paper copy?

Mr Bless: We stopped printing the newsletter to reduce cost of paper, printing, staff time, etc. We also found newsletters discarded in the playground or left unread in school bags. It is more cost effective to e-mail it out to parents - we do not have all parents' e-mails despite repeated requests. The newsletter is also published every Friday on our website.

8. Lollypop Lady – concerns that the lollypop lady is no longer on Newbury Avenue

Parents are concerned about children crossing as a little girl was narrowly missed yesterday.

Mr Bless: the LA are not in the position to replace her. They did conduct a survey, but as yet we do not know the outcome.

9. Volunteers for school trips and events

Mr Bless mentioned that the school is looking for any parents who may be available to take children to and from sporting events and accompany classes on school trips (at short notice) to contact school office. With a reduction in school staff it is harder to cover these with only school staff.

The meeting concluded with all parents expressing that they are very happy with the direction the school is taking and with their child's progress.

Mr Bless mentioned that Friends of POW are becoming more active with school and if any of them were interested they could join and/or link up with them. They will be around on the Sports and Family Picnic Day – Friday 30th June, if anyone is interested.

Those who attended were thanked for coming.

The next Parent Forum will be on Wednesday 8th November 2017 at 9:00am.