



Woodchester Endowed Church of England (VA) Primary School

Our church school community seeks to inspire children and adults to love, learn and flourish together so we may become everything God has created us to be.

Parent Forum 28th November 2pm in School Hall

Aims

- ▶ To learn about the school community and parental perspectives, context and history
- ▶ Raise awareness of the views of our parent community
- ▶ Consult on changes, such as projects, policy proposals and local issues in the school community
- ▶ Explore views on specific concerns or issues
- ▶ Triangulate governor, parent and staff viewpoints
- ▶ Gain support for school projects or goals

'Golden rules'

- ▶ Show respect to all members of this forum, by listening to and respecting a diverse range of opinions
- ▶ Stick to agreed timescales for discussion of topics
- ▶ Maintain confidentiality by not mentioning the names of individual members of the community
- ▶ Avoid discussing individual circumstances or grievances. These issues will be directed via the school's complaint's procedure instead

Communication Discussion:

- Parents raised that the school uses lots of different platforms and it is difficult to determine what is important and what is not so important. It was agreed that clarity would help on which communications come through which platforms. **Action on HT to review and share information.**
- Paper letters in book bags don't always arrive at their end destination. It was agreed that it would be helpful for letters to be put on the website and a text sent to say that they have been uploaded. Parents would like to consider whether preferences around communication could be collected – paper/electronic. **Action on HT to review and consider how this could be implemented and improved.**
- Parents confirmed that the whole school calendar is really useful for planning. A suggestion was made that a Welcome to Woodchester letter for parents could help when a new child joins the school. **Action on Governors to consider who is best placed to produce this.**
- Parents agreed that the newsletter is helpful and the frequency is correct. The new electronic format is user friendly.
- A discussion was held about the recent issues with texts and it was explained that the local authority system did not update correctly causing issues for many schools. This had an impact on communication from the school office and some parent data has had to be re-entered.
- Parents discussed how they can know more about their child's learning and it was explained that each class teacher issues a Curriculum Overview for the term at the start of each term. These are

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'Love, Learn and Flourish Together'





shared on DoJo and also loaded to the school website in the class section. **Action on HT to ensure that the teachers have let parents know when they are available.**

- Parents agree that DoJo is a useful tool for communication and the different features were discussed. Class Story is a secure place to share photos/spellings etc. The chat feature can be used either as a blast chat to share information with all class parents or as a private message facility to communicate directly.
- A discussion was held about the new morning routines with two adults in the playground – one by the gate – usually the HT. Parents felt that the children like having adults in the playground with it making them feel welcome and able to ask any questions if needed.
- Parents raised concerns about being stuck at the gate for Woodpeckers, however the HT clarified that the gate is locked for safeguarding reasons. **Action on HT to feed back to Woodpeckers.**
- Parents raised concerns about the number of dogs which are being tied to the railings during drop off and pick up – particularly if close to the playground gate. Some parents expressed concerns that a number of children were stepping off the pavement and into the road to avoid them. **Action on HT to mention to parents.**
- Parents asked who was responsible for painting the yellow hazard lines outside of school as children were crossing between cars when heading to Messy Church. **Action on HT to speak with highways department.**
- A discussion about parking was held with parents expressing frustration that it is the same parents who regularly park inconsiderately. Whilst the school empathises, the school has a responsibility to work with our neighbours and ask everyone to be mindful. **Action on HT to speak to PCSO about monitoring parking again.**
- As part of communication, booking parents evening appointments was discussed. All agreed that it needs to be made easier but that the school is constrained by costs of some solutions. **Action on HT to investigate further.**

Ideas for future parent forums

- Format of reports
- Additional parents evening in the summer term instead of a longer report
- How to encourage a greater number of parents to either attend the forum or send in ideas

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