

Parents Forum Minutes

Date: 8/3/22

Attendance: 7 Parents including Parent Governor (CS), AW and KM

Presentation:  8th March 2022.pptx

Led by: Alex Waddington

Minutes taken by: Kim Mead

Agenda Item	Minutes	Actions
Agenda shared with parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome and Introductions• Homework• Writing progression across the school• Handwriting• Secondary School Transition• BCP Navigator role• Uniform• Swimming lessons• School Trips	
Welcome and Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• AW welcomed everyone and introduced herself, Mrs Mead as minute taker and Miss Sheen as parent governor.	
Homework	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• AW shared slides showing each year groups expectations for homework and how quantity / time increases over each year• Links were shared for various apps such as Bug Club, Lexia, Spelling Shed and TTRockstars• AW shared the importance of completing homework to build on and support skills being taught in the classroom	<p>Minutes and presentation to be shared on school website within 7 days of the meeting</p> <p>Class teachers to reshare links and passwords with parents as appropriate</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● AW shared that homework also helps to prepare children for the nightly homework expectations at secondary school ● A parent asked for homework links to be shared, AW explained that the minutes and presentation would be made available by the website within the next 7 days ● CS supported that homework increases at secondary school level so homework at primary level is important 	
Writing across the school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● AW shared a progression map of writing for the school explaining full coverage of the national curriculum ● An explanation of different writing genres was given and the map was explained how each genre is revisited and previously learned skills are built upon providing them with the opportunities to become proficient writers before moving to the next stage of their education ● A parent asked if they could see more of their children's work. They were now in Y1 and were used to daily sharing in Reception through the use of Tapestry. AW responded that parent evenings were coming up soon and these would be face to face allowing parents the opportunities to see work in books and in classrooms. A reminder that meetings with teachers can be requested via the school office if required. 	

Handwriting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● The handwriting policy was shared visually with parents● An explanation that in Reception, much work goes into preparing the children to write, such as through storyscises, dough disco, exercise for core strength and stability and fiddly fingers, to provide them with the posture, gross and fine motor skills they need before they can write● The cursive letters were shown● An explanation that the pen licence is earned every academic year to maintain high standards of presentation● Certificates can be awarded for handwriting and presentation even if pen licence has not been earned	
Secondary School Transition	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● AW explained that we do not tutor for the grammar schools	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Explanation given that if considering your child for the grammar school entry tests, your child needs to be ready to sit and pass them in the September of Y6 ● Links to the grammar school website were shared and an explanation given that you could find information about the types of test that would be undertaken and resource links to support your child if you wish for them to take the tests ● AW encouraged parents to have conversations at parents evenings with class teachers if considering grammar school tests. Teachers would be best placed to advise on key strengths and areas for development for your child ● AW also encouraged parents to visit as many secondary schools as possible to find the best fit for your child ● CS shared that her children attend different schools because they have different personalities and strengths ● AW also shared that seeing the schools during the working day is important as can give you a more realistic picture and feel for the school ● A link to BCP website was shared about how and when to apply for secondary school places ● It was shared that this academic year, 1st July is BCP's secondary transition day where Y6 will visit their new schools ● Additional visits to schools can be made for certain children if necessary. For example, if a child has an EHCP or is particularly anxious and both Jewell and the secondary school feel additional visits are of benefit. A member of Jewell staff would accompany a small group or an individual on these visits to support the child/ren ● Jewell Academy will also aim for this to be the day that our year groups will meet their new teachers for the academic year ahead too. The only reason that this would not happen is if further teaching appointments need to be made. 	
BCP Navigator Role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The role of the Navigator was introduced ● This is a BCP employee who has extensive knowledge in BCP services connected to children and families such as Early Help 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mrs Sarah Dewey has been appointed to work with Jewell Academy 2 days a week and you may begin seeing her on gate duties etc. at the start and end of the school day ● Mrs Dewey will support the school in working with children and families who may need signposting to different services, this may include; housing, financial services, physical and emotional support, parenting courses. ● She will work with both pupils and the families and some of this work may include work in the family homes ● Parenting courses are likely to be on offer from the summer term at Jewell ● A parent asked what a parenting course was. AW explained that for some families, routines, behaviour etc can be a struggle. Quite often, before a referral to paediatrics can be made, they expect a parenting course to be completed. The waiting lists for these can be long so it is great that it is something we will be able to offer to our parents directly now ● There is a clear referral pathway for the school and families to ensure the right services are being offered and made to our families 	
Uniform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Trust and school expectations regarding uniform were reshared ● Children should be changing for PE in the classroom ● Children from Y2 up are split into male and female rooms and staff safeguard from the doorways ● Help is given to younger children if necessary or encouraged to ask a friend for help ● Tip for girls to wear shorts under skirts on PE days - something often done when they aren't wearing tights anyway ● Currently losing learning time due to children not being used to getting changed ● We listened to parent voice around PE days and children coming in their kit and it was put back to the Trust more than once ● Lost learning time is currently quite high due to changing. Children need practice at changing and encouragement from home 	<p>School to encourage parents to support with independence and changing quickly, particularly in the younger year.</p> <p>Parents to share views on making the current uniform more affordable.</p>

- Trust have agreed that it is time to get some normality back and revert to our high standards and expectations
- CS shared that her daughter is in Y4 and feedback was that the girls were quite anxious to begin with but they are all ok now they have done it a few times. It is good to get normality back and have the high standards back.
- AW explained this had always been the case pre-pandemic and when children move to secondary schools they will be expected to change, so we need to normalise it
- DfE have asked schools to consider uniform costs for parents. This has also been spoken about at Trust level
- We would welcome feedback from parents about uniform costings but maintaining high standards
- Visitors to the school compliment our children on how smart they look. The blazer and stripy tie are the key pieces that Mrs Waddington would like to remain unique to Jewell. AW asked if parents agreed. Parents agreed the blazer and tie is very smart
- Black trousers/skirts and white shirts can be bought at reasonable prices from supermarkets etc.
- Suggestion to go to non logo t-shirts and jumpers, reducing the costs further
- Suggestion that house colour t-shirts could be worn for PE, can be bought cheaply at the supermarkets and would increase house belonging etc. White polo shirts could also be worn due to costings but would or could get dirty easily at Forest School or PE
- AW highlighted that the advantage to sticking with the turquoise would be for school trips, making the children easily identifiable in a public space so would approach Brigade for costings of a non logo turquoise shirt
- AW asked parents to please think about uniform and share with other parents and encourage them to share thoughts and opinions regarding costings. We are not changing the uniform but looking to make it affordable for all
- If changes are made, there would be no expectation for current Y5 moving into Y6 to make the change due to affordability

Swimming Lessons	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● AW explained that the National Curriculum expects all primary age children to be able to swim 25m by the time they leave Primary School● Currently, Y5 will start swimming lessons● There is a cost to this as we do not have our own pool to be able to provide lessons. Even if we did have a pool, we would still have to charge for lessons in order for its upkeep as do other local schools with pools● The costings are kept low and in line with outside school lessons● If your child has lessons outside of school and can already swim 25m, if you can produce their certificates for us to take a copy of, they will not be required to go swimming and can take part in a PE session in school● A parent asked if their child could still attend swimming sessions even if they could swim 25m as they would want to go with their class and they enjoy swimming. AW replied that yes, of course this would be acceptable and it was once again about affordability.● If children cannot swim 25m at the end of Y5, they would be given another opportunity to swim in Y6	
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<p>School Trips</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● These are now beginning again● Importance of raising the financial contributions to allow the trip to happen. For example a coach for the day costs approximately £400● The trip enhances the learning that has either taken or will take place in the classroom● We want the trips to be accessible to all● AW asked if it would be beneficial to have an instalment system, parents agreed advance notice and time to spread costs would be good	<p>Teachers to plan and give as much notice as possible on trips so parents can spread costings</p> <p>Parents to have a better understanding of the education value of each trip</p>
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AOB/Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● AW asked if there were any further questions● Where are Y4 going on their trips? AW replied that there is a rock band coming in to support their rock band ATL topic but further information about any trips or visitors that are coming up could be obtained from the class teacher● Another parent enquired whether children would be required to wear masks. AW responded that children under 12 are unlikely to need masks, particularly as the government had now relaxed their rules, however, a good rule would be to do what made you and your child comfortable. If you prefer your child to wear a mask in public, we can support with that● A Y1 parent asked for more information than is on the parent overviews for each term and how this can be obtained. AW encouraged parent to speak directly with the class teachers● Y1 parent explained they don't feel they get enough feedback about their child as they had Tapestry in Reception. AW explained that it is a shift from Tapestry but teachers are always available to speak with if you want more clarity or further information. Y1 in particular run a homework club which parents can attend with their child and this would be a good way to see and understand the learning as the teachers model strategies etc they use during the learning which parents can then use at home to support learning <ul style="list-style-type: none">● AW announced that the date for the next Parent Forum is yet to be confirmed, but it would be in the evening of Summer 2.● Please share with other parents and encourage their attendance● Please consider the uniform● Please put forward ideas and suggestions for the next agenda	
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