



**Parent Voice
Information and Update Sessions
Friday 27th January 2017**

**The first School in Cornwall to achieve the
Leading Parent Partnership Award**

Minutes from Parent information and update session January 2017

Meeting Date

Friday 27th January 9am – number attending – 5

Main points presented

Parental questions and comments with responses from Mrs Sharpe:

Apologies were given re the cancellation of the last meeting. This was due to the extensive flooding.

Two rooms are still out of action. Fortunately they are now dry so refurbishment hopefully will begin in half term.

Updates from the last meeting

a. New classrooms

- Building has now finished
- We are expecting to reduce our new intake back to three classes from September which means that in two years' time we will be able to remove the partition wall between classes 5 and 6 and change use to a hall which was the original plan.

Parent question/comment	Response
How will you use the new hall?	Our one hall which we have at present is used for assembly and three lunch sittings which means each class can only have one indoor PE session. The new hall will be predominantly used for PE, drama, dance etc.
Do you know how many applications you have for Reception in September?	No. We are usually given the number of first, second and third choices about mid-February, but we do not have a list of names.

b. After School Care

- This began this month.
- The staff are considering offering to help with homework, hear reading etc.
- The Junior school hope to have their provision in place by half term.

Parent question/comment	Response
<p>My daughter loves it. She doesn't want to come home!</p> <p>Support with reading and learning spellings would be great. Thank you.</p>	

c. Changes to Nursery Provision from Sept 2017

- We still have not been informed if the 30 hours free child care will definitely be starting in September but we expect this to be the case.
- Trials elsewhere in the country have had 80% uptake so we expect it to be popular.

Parent question/comment	Response
<p>When will you start offering places?</p> <p>Who will be offered the 30 hours free childcare?</p> <p>We are all in limbo. The school can't organise provision and the parents can't organise their working hours.</p>	<p>Usually we have offered places by Christmas however we intend to wait until Easter in case there are any changes.</p> <p>Parents who work more than 16 hours including self-employed and earn less than £100,000 per year. However the government website to check eligibility is not yet active.</p>

d. Reports

- The Early Years termly reports are being trialled. Initial feedback appears to be good.

Parent question/comment	Response
<p>Will you move to termly reports throughout the school?</p>	<p>Yes as long as the feedback from Early Years parents is good.</p>

e. Testing

- The EYFS profile is again statutory
- New Year 2 SATs tests results were varied.
- Year 1 phonic screening will remain with a resit in Year 2 for those who have not reached the expected level.

Parent question/comment	Response
These tests are not really meaningful. They don't measure the things that are important for real life. The school work hard to make them as fun as possible. My daughter is not finding them stressful. It is important that we do not label children as failures especially at this young age.	

f. School Crossing Patrol

- Mr Thomas our local councillor worked hard on behalf of the school and managed to secure funding for a further 12 months.

Parent question/comment	Response
It is important that the crossing patrols remain. The Junior children need to become independent but parents also need to know that they are safe. Could they be self-employed? Could they be sponsored by local businesses? Are there other funding streams e.g. Healthy Schools?	I will pass these suggestions to Mr Thomas.

g. Attendance at Parent Voice

- It was suggested that we try this new coffee morning format to increase attendance.

Parent question/comment	Response

New Items

1. Working in partnership / homework

a. Reading

- There has been a dramatic drop in the number of children who are heard to read at home. In some classes this is as many as 15 children.
- We looked at whole class or whole school rewards similar to the Junior School, however our school council were against this as our children have no control over whether their parents hear them read or not and at this age they cannot all read by themselves.
- Mrs Uglow has looked at other schools and has proposed we consider individual wrist band rewards known as Reading Karate. It is expected that the child will be heard to read every day and an adult will sign their record book. When they have been heard a specified number of times they get the first wrist band, then they work their way towards the next wrist band.

Parent question/comment	Response
<p>The children will probably be very receptive to this. We won't have to nag them to read.</p> <p>This is definitely worth trying.</p> <p>What is the reason given by parents who do not hear their children read?</p> <p>There are also issues for non-resident parents.</p> <p>Could there be more advice for parents on making reading more enjoyable?</p> <p>Could we find out more about Hygge the Danish idea of making cosy environments which would encourage shared reading at home?</p> <p>There are some really good ideas on Pinterest for reading games. Could we share these?</p>	<p>Life! It can be difficult for working parents.</p> <p>We could have 'coffee morning style' sharing meetings if people would be interested.</p>

b. Maths

- St Ives Infants have been using Maths Passports to help parents to help their children with basic maths skills. Examples were shared.
- The Number Challenge has been in place for nearly a year now. What is the feedback?

Parent question/comment	Response
All parents were very positive about the progression in the passports and thought that the examples were particularly helpful.	
No one knew what the Number Challenge was.	It would appear that we should consider replacing the Number Challenge with the Maths Passport. I will inform the Maths subject leaders.
Will the children be having the maths games to take home again?	Yes. Mrs Hill has been busy checking and replenishing the packs. Hopefully this will start again soon.

c. Juniors Homework - Noughts & crosses

- The school council have been considering the Junior School approach to homework through which they select 3 or more activities in a term linked to topics. They appear keen but would like to know what parents think.

Parent question/comment	Response
The noughts and crosses work well for my child. There are some really good activities.	
We need to be careful not to overload children and parents especially if we are introducing Karate Reading and Maths Passports.	
The activities should be creative to balance up the reading and maths.	I will ask the School Council and Teachers to put together some ideas to bring to the next meeting.

Any Other Business

- **There are two vacancies for Parent Governors.**