



**Parent Voice
Information and Update Sessions
Monday 11th & Tuesday 12th Nov 2015**

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

Minutes from Parent information and update session November 2015

Meeting Dates:

Monday 11th November 5pm – number attending – 2

Tuesday 12th November 2015 9am – number attending – 14

Main points presented

Parental questions and comments with responses from Mrs Sharpe:

1. Follow up from last meeting

a. New Reception Class and future development

- The new class (Class 10) was ready and running in September.
- We have 113 Reception pupils with 7 spaces at present.
- School buildings money which was allocated towards the expansion bid (which was unsuccessful) has been allocated to building an additional multi-purpose hall. (subject to planning permission) This will be near the nursery building, digging into the steep bank thereby having little impact on overall playground space.
- However as there is a strong possibility that reception numbers will be high again next September, there is a plan that this could be temporarily used as two classrooms and we have again raised our operational capacity to 120.

Parent question/comment	Response
Are other Redruth schools full?	Yes
Will the new reception children go through the school?	Yes
Can the Junior School accommodate the children?	I believe so, we have been working together with the junior school
Can the present hall accommodate four classes for lunch?	Yes – it is already working for reception.
Will the new class have a qualified teacher?	Yes
Do you have time to get planning permission and build before September?	We believe that it is possible.
What if it is not ready in time?	Mrs Sargent has indicated that we would be able to use the Junior school science hut on a temporary basis.

Can the school say no to the council?	Yes
Do you see the school just getting bigger and bigger?	Personally I cannot see how we can accommodate more than four classes per year group. I also expect that we will return to three classes once the 'bulge years' have passed but I do not have any data.
Will there be a higher chance of getting a reception place for September?	Yes

b. Outdoor / Woodland Learning Area

The area near the school entrance outside Classes 8&9 has been cleared and redeveloped. New trees were planted this week. Following a suggestion from this group, the garden area outside Classes 4&5 is also incorporated as part of the outdoor learning experience – Ranger Bear and Miss Huddleston meet the children in the garden summer house where they have a story and activity. They then go on a journey behind the building to Ranger's Wood. By the end of term, all reception and nursery children will have had their introduction. Years 1 and 2 will start next term.

Parent question/comment	Response
It all sound great.	
My child has really loved it.	

c. After School Care

This was taken to governors following the last Parent Voice meeting. It was agreed that this is something we should follow up (hopefully when we have room!) Parents were asked for more information about what provision they would want and the following thoughts were collected. It was agreed that this should be a regular agenda item.

Parent question/comment	Response
It should cover the working day until 6pm. It should be booked in advance either monthly or half termly. Payment should be either hourly rate or sessions (the later sessions should be more expensive?) It should be open to Junior children. A snack should be provided.	

2. Parking / Walking Bus

At a previous meeting, the parents present did not want to resurrect the walking bus as they felt that most parents either want to see their own children into school safely or do not want the responsibility of other people's children.

However there has been new interest so it is relevant to discuss this again.

One sticking point appears to be what to do with the children once at school. We looked at the breakfast club, but this would not be possible due to numbers and also the issue of some parents paying and not others.

It was suggested that the children go in the covered playground. Staff are happy to try this, but all parents would need to remain outside in order to adequately supervise. We would then need to explore the pros against the cons. i.e. all parents standing outside the playground getting wet – how many fewer cars will there be outside the school?

Parent question/comment	Response
<p>Is it a lot of work for a few children? Will the parents who use the walking bus be the ones who usually walk anyway?</p> <p>Following a long discussion it was recommended to trial a 'drop and go' system for Years 1 and 2. There will be additional staff in the covered playground and parents can either leave or wait on the slope.</p> <p>Further discussions took place regarding the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Information for parents including some online suggestions.• Parking is worse in the afternoon <p>It was agreed that this should continue to be on the agenda.</p>	<p>Miss Hulme will send out a letter this term explaining the trial.</p>

3. **E-Safety**

Mr Ford is leading staff, pupils and governors to improve safety around using the internet including tablets and mobile phones. We need to know what is the best way to engage with parents.

Parent question/comment	Response
<p>It would be good to link it to an activity / presentation that the children are involved with (especially if it relates to e-safety)</p> <p>Can parents have clear instructions on how to set up permissions for ipads and phones etc?</p>	<p>I'm not sure, but I will find out.</p>

4. Book Swap Scheme

It has been suggested that the school introduces a scheme in which parents donate books which their children have read or finished with and then borrow something else.

Parent question/comment	Response
<p>Could it be in each classroom to make it easier?</p> <p>Are we taking away from the library service?</p> <p>Can we give children a sticker for returning / swapping a book?</p> <p>Could we consider Swap a Book day once every half term and promote the library to parents whilst they are there?</p>	<p>Everyone agreed this would be a good idea, we will start a trial of this suggestion.</p>

5. Impact of future changes to Nursery Hours

The government has announced its proposal to award 30 hours free childcare to working parents. At present we offer five mornings or five afternoons (15 hours) which clearly won't work.

Applications for our nursery are dropping (probably due to the inflexibility)

We would like to continue our focus on preparing children for school.

Any thoughts?

Parent question/comment	Response
<p>Would it remain an educational nursery? Our nursery prepares children for school which is why I chose it. Our Nursery is too structured which is why I did not choose it. It's important that we offer something different to the other nurseries. I think 30 hours is too long. Can we just keep doing what we do now? Could it be a longer day for working</p>	

parents?	
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6. Any other business

Parent question/comment	Response
<p><u>SEND (Special Educational Needs & Disability) – information to parents</u> When did the changes start? Is this for all schools?</p>	<p>September 2015 Yes</p>
<p><u>Transition to Junior School</u> How does the transition work with the Junior School?</p>	<p>We jointly employ 3 Transition TAs who move to the Junior School with the Children. Year 2 and Year 3 teachers meet together in the Summer term. Some Subject Leaders meet to work on joint projects.</p>
<p>I am surprised at the difference in levels for example in spelling.</p>	<p>This is an area that we could work closer together on.</p>
<p><u>Testing</u> What are the new tests coming in? There was a brief discussion about SATs and Baseline Assessment. It was agreed to add this to the next agenda.</p>	