

## Parent Forum meeting minutes

In attendance: Miss Simmons, Miss Andrews, 21 Almond Hill parents representing all year groups.

Discussion point	Parent view	Next steps/other
<p><b>'Smartphone free childhood'</b></p> <p>Discussed how school in Hitchin have had over 50% parent sign up to this initiative.</p> <p>Shared following links with forum which include more information:</p> <p><a href="https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/">https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.wransom.herts.sch.uk/parents-and-carers/wr-smartphone-free-childhood">https://www.wransom.herts.sch.uk/parents-and-carers/wr-smartphone-free-childhood</a></p> <p>Would parents be interested in us doing something similar? I know that in quite a lot of schools, parents have asked the school to make a statement or similar or have a stand on it and we wondered about opinions of our parents</p> <p>Discussed current phone rules - allowed to bring in Y5/6 - off at the gate and then taken in by the teacher until home time.</p> <p>We wouldn't be looking at implementing a full phone ban as we know that parents allow them so that children can walk home and we're keen on independence.</p>	<p>Parents weren't keen for us to get involved by facilitating something like a no smartphone pledge and believed that smartphones were a parents' choice. Several said their children have 'dumb' phones/brick phones or lots of parental controls. They said that perhaps parents might benefit from information on parental controls/different apps etc.</p> <p>Parents were very supportive of these rules and didn't want them to change.</p> <p>Parents agreed</p>	<p>Post links to all parents to gather wider opinions.</p> <p>Parents suggested that maybe some support with phones would be useful including general 'smartphone education'.</p> <p>This might include support on apps or settings</p> <p>Assistant Heads, Miss Andrews and Mrs Lyons, have planned a meeting to discuss if this is something that could potentially happen later in the year and what it might look like.</p>
<p><b>Christmas events</b></p> <p>Discussed Christmas events - what are the opinions of these?</p> <p>Y6 Church service</p> <p>Y5/Y4 - Carols in the Quad</p> <p>Y3 - Christmas Nativity production</p> <p>Christmas lunches</p> <p>Present room</p> <p>Talent Shows</p>	<p>Parents were very positive about the events held over the festive period.</p> <p>The sing-a-long was especially noted as a lovely event - a community feel.</p> <p>Talent show is very enjoyable for the children.</p>	<p>School will continue to offer activities and opportunities to come together at special times of the year.</p>
<p><b>Potential changes to the way information is communicated with parents</b></p> <p>Proposed possible changes to the delivery of</p>	<p>Parents agreed that having key messages on</p>	<p>If changes are</p>

<p>information - breaking up the information for parents so that it is sent out in the following way...</p> <p>Monday - Key messages, diary dates, attendance</p> <p>Friday – ‘In other news’, celebrations and everything else.</p>	<p>Mondays was a good idea to support not missing anything at the start of a new week. However, it was suggested that this could be repeated with ‘In other news’ on Fridays so that it didn’t get missed - splitting the content means more chance of missing information.</p> <p>Many parents felt that repeating the information was a positive thing.</p> <p>Parents like Seesaw as a channel of communication</p>	<p>made we will make parents/carers aware of the changes so people are not left without information.</p> <p>We can gather opinions of any changes at next parent forum.</p>
<p><b>Parent contributions</b></p> <p>Explained that Mrs Fordham is always conscious about keeping costs to parents low and this is always considered when we plan events at school. That said, lots of things come at a cost to a tight school budget. Discussed how parents felt about making contributions to things such as trips/visits, Y6 leavers hoodies, year books or graduation events and other events at school.</p>	<p>Many parents suggested things that mark certain occasions, like Y6 hoodies etc, they would be willing to pay for.</p> <p>Majority of parents spoken to suggest that parents should be given the option of contributing as whilst some might not be able to or not want to, some would like to. This also links to options for doing other things, like for example, dressing up for World Book Day.</p> <p>Maybe a voluntary donation for things is a better option</p> <p>Maybe set a minimum/maximum amount to contribute</p> <p>One parent suggested parents should support the school as the school provide the children with experiences, memories that are valuable.</p> <p>PTA/FOAH are very supportive with finding across the school but more parents are needed to support.</p>	<p>Continue to promote FOAH. Ask parents to support the excellent work they do - does not have to be a big involvement or commitment.</p>
<p><b>Transitions</b></p> <p>What are parents thoughts on any transition work from Y2 - Y3 or Y6 - Y7?</p> <p>Our programme of events to support children from Y2 - Y3 is better in our opinion than it has ever been with more visits by Almond Hill teachers/Senco and support staff to Y3 and more opportunities for visits to AH</p>	<p>Fewer lower school parents in group but one member suggested child has had a very positive experience joining school mid-year and lots had been put in place to support their move.</p> <p>Parents of Y6 children felt positive that there would be things in place and class discussion to support the move to secondary.</p> <p>Moving up day is important</p> <p>Parents like and understand the need for a class mix.</p>	<p>Continue to consider transition and gather feedback.</p>