



Elmtree Parent Forum 2021

22nd January 2021

Agenda is underlined.

Welcome and thank you

Apologies received prior to the meeting from Rachel, may be 15 minutes after start due to home learning commitments.

Mrs Whitehill thanked the parents for joining the group during a difficult period, but felt that in our collaboration it was important that parents' voices were heard.

Agreement was made to share personal names on the newsletter going out to parents 22/1/21 so that all families had been informed of the parent forum group.

Clarity on the vision of Parent forum

The aim of the group moving forward is to act as an advocate for the parents of each class on wider, strategic school projects. The notion of class issues should continue to be directed to the class teachers not the parent forum.

Feedback- per class, views and any questions

Acknowledgement that the group had not had sufficient opportunity based on current 3rd National lockdown as well as not being announced to wider parents.

- **The general voice was that families feel the school need to do more in terms of daily pre-recorded or live teaching sessions.** *Mrs Whitehill explained that the school systems and technology requirements was causing us in school difficulties. We had experienced success with the live assemblies across the school and were going to start using that platform to offer live weekly roundup/ feedback sessions on a Friday to Reception, year 1 and 2. Pre-recorded material is taking 30 minutes to condense as a file that can then be shared on the website, on top of recording time. As a school with Infant aged children we have a duty of care to promote age appropriate sites and resources.*

UPDATE- Mrs Whitehill has started using Tapestry daily to 'live' record stories which can be shared via individual journals, this is taking less than 20 minutes in total to complete. We aim to roll this out over the next two weeks. Children will have more 'access' to school staff. Please note it won't always be the class Teachers as they are on rota in Reception and year 1. The year 2 Teachers are already juggling 2 class bubbles and remote learning. The school currently has over 25% of pupils on roll on site every day.

- **Drop box was suggested-** Having spoken to Mrs Gammell our IT support Team 'Turn IT On' have recommended that we do not use them as the files are not held on a UK server, so falls into the remit of GDPR and personal data.
- **Sarah suggested a device recycling project she had been made aware of.** *Mrs Whitehill hadn't seen any information on this, it was noted that Mrs*

Gammell our IT manager is already working at capacity, she would not be able to upcycle donated devices. As a school we do not have any spare capacity in our Microsoft Open Volume Licensing to be able to recycle devices.

Sarah has offered to investigate further.

- **At the start of live assemblies, the children need a ‘moment’ to acknowledge friends.** *Mrs Whitehill will discuss with the staff team to agree a suitable way of starting and ending the session.*
- **Remote learning grids- It was suggested that they were shared on Friday to give families time to prepare if needed.** *Mrs Whitehill has agreed with Mrs Gammell that they will now be available by Friday lunchtime in advance.*
- **Have we spoken to other schools? Or networked with regards to what is working in other local schools.** *Elmtree is part of ODBST Trust, which currently has 11 schools. We hold fortnightly virtual Headteacher meetings and have regular contact. The Elmtree remote learning offer is meeting the DfE requirements for Remote learning. From 25th January we will have two weekly live sessions, feedback via year group email, feedback of paper packs via the telephone for those unable to access the remote learning and one of the live sessions is dedicated to feedback to ensure all pupils get the opportunity to recognise what they are doing well and how they can improve.*
- **Could year 2 also introduce their weekly learning? Children listen to their Teachers.** *Mrs Whitehill and the SLT are looking into ways to develop our remote provision. The Grids should have age appropriate links to introduce / teach content and then offer a way of practising those skills. Having spoken to SLT we will be asking all teachers to remind children to listen to their parents and complete their tasks for the week.*

School streets initiative, <http://schoolstreets.org.uk/>

Mrs Whitehill has heard and agreed that the congestion, pollution and traffic outside the school is concerning. This initiative had been suggested by Rachel earlier in the Autumn term.

Other ideas to support wider development;

- **Lucy suggested linking up with secondaries, colleges to use students to support our pupils.** *Mrs Whitehill is proud to say that we have re-opened links with Brunel university, we currently have a student Teacher in year two (sadly ending her placement in a few weeks) We were due to have a student start from the local college, but, due to the current lock down this had been postponed. Elmtree is happy to support students develop practice. Lucy has offered to make further links with other Higher education establishments.*
- **Aurelia noted that she has links with a charity for voluntary readers. She has sent further information to Mrs Whitehill.**

Plan Spring 2 meeting

4th March; If school is open to all pupils @10am, if the school is only open to Critical worker/Vulnerable group @4pm.

Agree any actions.

Review the school streets initiative and feedback at the next meeting.

Sarah to investigate recycling options for devices

Lucy to contact links for pupil to pupil support from other schools.

School to share forum information on the newsletter, introducing parent reps.

Mrs Whitehill to write up minutes and share with reps and then on the website.

