



Barley Lane Primary School

Parent Forum Minutes

24th November 2021 (9:15-10:15am)

Email: parentforum@barleylane.redbridge.sch.uk



In attendance

Staff: Mr Henry (Headteacher) and Mrs Knight (Deputy Headteacher)

Parents/Carers: 15 parents attended, (children in Nursery, Reception, Y1, 2, 3, 5 & 6)

Notes	Actions
<p>1. Welcome and Introductions Mr Henry thanked parents for their contributions to the agenda via email.</p>	
<p>2. School Update and Priorities Mr Henry updated parents on the term so far. We have returned to some normality after two interrupted years due to Covid-19. Staggered start times and bubbles no longer exist, but we have contingency plans in place should we receive government or LA guidance to put measures in place. The number of cases at Barley Lane have been relatively low this term, with approximately 25 children/staff testing positive with a PCR test. However, there has been a wider impact on staffing, with higher than usual staff absence and some long-term absence. Internal staff are used for cover where possible and supply teachers as a last resort.</p> <p>A rolling programme of school redecoration and upgrading continues, with completion of our three-year window replacement programme, full redecoration of the nursery and some outdoor improvements being completed this term. E.g. the new trim trail opened this week, which parents said has been well received by the children.</p>	
<p>3. Lockdown Catch-up A parent asked for the school's view on the impact of lockdown on pupil attainment, which subjects had been most affected, how the school and parents could help the children to address gaps in learning.</p> <p>Mrs Knight provided an overview of how catch-up funding has been used. Reading is the area most in need of addressing and the school had seen the biggest impact on children in Key Stage 1 and Early Years. The school is using funding to provide extra staff for intervention, pre-teaching, catch-up and ensuring gaps are being addressed. We use the Lexia programme for reading catch-up, running Key Stage 1 morning Lexia club three days a week. Children using the Lexia programme can log in at school and home.</p> <p>Mrs Knight explained that physical education is also a focus, given the increase in children who are overweight and have not exercised as much as they would have prior to lockdown. Children are entitled to two PE lessons per week.</p> <p>Our curriculum is regularly reviewed to ensure that gaps in learning are identified and planned for. Audits are carried out in each subject and those objectives which are not being met (or gaps in lockdown) are planned for in this term's curriculum for these children. Today's staff INSET is a review of the autumn term curriculum to consider what needs to be addressed in spring.</p>	

<p>Parents agreed that reading should be a priority and that reading at home is vital. The school has a group of parent volunteers who come in and read on a 1:1 basis with children. More parents are welcome: speak to Mrs Applegate.</p> <p>A parent asked how parents and carers are updated on issues or gaps in learning experienced by their own children. This discussion takes place at parent consultation evenings or individual discussions with class teachers</p>	
<p>4. Barley Lane Parking</p> <p>A parent raised a concern about the parking situation around the school at drop-off and pick-up time. It appears that many parents are driving their children to school despite living very nearby and parking illegally on the road and dropped kerbs. The gate with most congestion is Nursery entrance on Barley Lane in the morning.</p> <p>Mr Henry explained that the school is aware of this and shares concerns about the safety of the children. Although school staff cannot be responsible for traffic enforcement, we challenge it where possible and we regularly call for traffic enforcement to patrol. Parents agreed that the situation and aggressive behaviour of a small minority seems to be worse than in pre-covid times. A parent suggested that we work with children to change mindsets within families.</p> <p>The school has considered signing up to the School Streets initiative, where a temporary restriction could be placed on adjoining streets during peak times. However, we fear that this would result in even more traffic on Barley Lane, causing increased danger.</p> <p>Mr Henry explained that school is aware of the queues of parents at the nursery gate. Some parents mistake our start time for 8:45, but it's 8:55 and we open the gates just before 8:45 for a 10-minute soft start. This was the case pre-covid and there were rarely any issues on this gate. Now it appears that parents are queuing to get in at 8:45. The school does not have the capacity to have staff on gates at 8:30 as this impacts on preparation time for the children. However, it has begun opening the nursery gate a little earlier than 8:45 this week and we will monitor.</p>	<p>Mr Henry to meet with the School Travel Plan Co-ordinator to consider a safety campaign, encouraging children to pass safety messages to their parents.</p> <p>School to reintroduce the Street Tag scheme</p> <p>School to speak to Y6 children who walk home alone regarding road safety</p>
<p>5. After-School Clubs</p> <p>A parent queried why there appears to be fewer after-school clubs this year. Mr Henry explained that clubs were stopped during covid and the return to clubs has been gradual, as we were uncertain as to how covid numbers would affect us. We currently have morning chess, lunchtime choir and recorder, after-school Smartie Arties, football, karate, Bollywood Dance for specific year groups. We have also introduced Shine Wraparound care this term which has been well received. Parent club suggestions included: cricket, cycling, gardening, badminton and a wider range of clubs for children in EYFS/KS1. School will review the club offer, but there are still limitations and risks involved as the pandemic remains.</p>	<p>School to enquire with providers about chess club taking place after school, and Redbridge Music Services about after-school tuition.</p> <p>School to review the club offer for spring and summer terms</p>
<p>6. Homework</p> <p>Parents asked about the homework policy and how pupils are being motivated to complete homework. They fed back that there appears to be an inconsistency in approach across year groups regarding uploading work and marking the work. Purple Mash as a platform did not receive complaints, but un-editable worksheets being uploaded was an issue for some.</p>	<p>School to review its homework policy in conjunction with staff, children and parents</p>

<p>7. Curriculum Diversity Mr Henry shared the objectives of the curriculum diversity action plan (see appendix below) and invited parents to consider joining a working party to review aspects of our curriculum and contribute to our work on diversity and inclusivity. Some parents acknowledged the work being done on diversity, having discussed it with their children.</p>	<p>School to circulate details of the working party in the coming weeks and set dates</p>
<p>8. Other queries A parent asked about the possibility of parents fundraising for a school coach to help with trips. We currently base transport arrangements on a case by case basis (trip location, distance, possible weather, year group) and hire coaches where necessary. This is expensive but often the only option. A school coach would be extremely expensive and require staff to drive and insurance. A parent asked about the EYFS curriculum and how best school could increase communication on reception children’s learning. The children don’t currently have access to Purple Mash or any apps. Parents agreed that it would be useful to have more detail on what the children learn so they can be supported at home.</p>	<p>School to consider how best to increase communication on learning focus in EYFS</p>
<p>9. Time and Date of Next Meeting Wednesday 12th January, 5pm via Zoom</p>	

Appendix 1

Overview of Curriculum Diversity Action Plan	
<p>Action Plan Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>To develop a diverse curriculum in all subjects across the school to achieve inclusivity for children and staff.</i> 2. <i>To continue to develop children and adults’ understanding of Black Lives Matter and the importance of Black History Matters.</i> 3. <i>Use the school’s wider, diverse community to contribute to Barley Lane’s work on inclusivity.</i> 4. <i>Ensure that extra-curricular activities and enrichment opportunities are reflective of our school community and develop further cultural awareness.</i> 	<p>Objective 3: Use the school’s wider, diverse community to contribute to Barley Lane’s work on inclusivity.</p> <p><i>Invite members of the school community to become part of a working party to consider ways in which their experiences, cultural knowledge, ideas and community contacts can strengthen existing work on diversifying our curriculum.</i></p> <p><i>Diversity working party meets half termly and relevant contributions are incorporated into the life and curriculum work of the school.</i></p>