

Parent Partnership Meeting

27th January 2021

Attendees

Miss Kelly
Miss Pavlou
Mrs Whatley
Donna Holland
Hannah Johnson
Eve Fox
Lisa Concannon
Maria Ryan
Anne Tully
A Cooney
Zara FitzLucas
Daniela Hill
Holly Evans
Lisa O'Callaghan

1. MATHS PAPER Parents in the older year groups asked if maths grid paper could be supplied. Yes of course, please contact the office where you are welcome to pick up a supply.
2. TOO MUCH WORK. Multiple parents have voiced concerns that there is too much to be covered on a daily basis with some children not finishing until 6pm. St Catherines prefers to provide a wealth of learning and does not want the children short of activities. However, the expectation is not to complete it all, do what you can, we are in a pandemic and the school understands many are struggling.
3. EMBEDDING PURPLE MASH TO DOS. A query was raised about all tasks on the learning blog not being visible on Purple Mash. Also where work had been emailed in addition to Purple Mash. Having so many places to look for tasks was confusing and adding to the stress. Miss Kelly was going to discuss with the Year group that reported the problem but emphasised all the teachers have different approaches and the needs of the various year groups differ so you won't necessarily get the same provision for every year which can be frustrating if you have children in multiple years. Going forwards the aim is to keep all the tasks to Purple Mash and not via email.
4. ROTA FOR STAFF - ON-SITE EDUCATION. At the beginning there were over 100 children onsite, it was felt the school was not doing enough to reduce its transmission during discussions with the Governors and local council so the requirements had to be tightened to limit the spread of COVID via the school.
5. DAILY ZOOMS. It was raised that instead of a general overview of work to be done and questions could some of the actual learning happen in that time. Miss Kelly said that the zoom should last at least 20 minutes to 30 mins maximum and yes was in fact being used for learning in some classes but striking the balance between getting the necessary participation

and engagement was not easy to get particularly where some children do not like the zooms at all.

6. TIPS FOR HOME SCHOOL. It was suggested that the school could run a workshop or advise on how to get the best out of home schooling. Miss Kelly really liked this idea noting similar workshops about Maths learning run by Miss Pavlov were well attended. Also in the weekly emails from Miss Kelly she sends various useful links and reassurance to parents to do what they can.
7. MENTAL HEALTH WEEK. This is next week, an email was sent with activities and links and the PSHE leaders will be running activities next week for the children. Well-being Wednesday will be the kick off, encouraging the children to spend some screen free time in particular. It was mooted whether we make this a weekly occurrence to encourage the children to play and/or have some time for parents and children to catch up on the week's work if a lighter schedule for each Wednesday was brought in e.g. 1 simple maths and 1 simple English task only. The priority is the children's wellbeing so it wouldn't be a task to complete but an opportunity for the children to get away from screens.
8. ZOOM GUIDELINES. The importance of the behavioural standards expected during zoom calls was reiterated. Guidelines have been emailed to all parents and also can be found here. Repeated violations will mean the daily zooms will be cancelled for that class.
9. NURSERY QUESTIONNAIRE. Following the survey that was sent out, a letter was sent to parents to clarify the situation going forwards. It is impossible to provide hot food to the nursery children at the moment and the reasons were passed on.
10. FUNDING. The school budget has taken a huge hit this year with no nursery or after school fees amongst other streams which provide revenue. However, what funding remains will be used for staffing - extra tutoring to support children when they get back to physical school. It was noted that in pupil progress meetings across all year groups the children were not as lagging as was nationally expected and that is testament to the fantastic home school efforts. Areas that needed attention such as phonics and handwriting has become a huge focus since starting back in September and should be reflected in the 2Do's each day.
11. FURTHER MEETING. The usual meeting cadence for the parent partnership is every half term however the school understands in light of the current situation something sooner would be beneficial so details will be sent for a follow up meeting in the next few weeks.
12. THANKS. Many of the parent reps wanted to express their gratitude to the school and teachers for the homeschool provision in particular the daily zooms which have been a lovely way to keep the classes in touch and visible. Miss Kelly thanked the parent reps for fielding many queries that have arisen at this time and working constructively with the school on the feedback to tweak the delivery of lessons.

NEXT MEETING DATE: TBC