

**Parent Forum Minutes**

**Thursday 11th March 2021**

**10am on Zoom**

Present: Liz Webber (Parent Ambassador), Bradley Taylor (Headteacher), Wendy Taylor (Assistant Headteacher), Rhonda Gosney (Deputy Headteacher – Cressex Site), DH (BH – Sapphire), AH (SH – Ruby), DB (NB&FB – Butterfly & Ladybird), EH (DH – Buttercup), PK (AA – Ladybird), SW (EW - Daisy), GD (MD - Butterfly), SB (AB Bumblebee), CH (EH - Emerald)

1. Welcome

Liz opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the Forum before covering housekeeping items (including asking permission for the session to be recorded for minute taking (everyone was in agreement)) and introductions were then made.

1. Update on current situation

Bradley gave an update on the current situation. We are delighted to have the children back at school and to be operating more like a normal school. It’s been a good first week, however inevitably we recognise that some children have suffered from the lack of routine and it will be a challenge to get them back into routine. They have been used to much smaller classes.

We are operating with minimal contact between classes to keep transmission low. Bubbles are 2 classes maximum and there should be virtually no contact with other bubbles. The therapists are having to work across bubbles. We will be trying to ease restrictions as we move forwards, however this will depend on local levels of the virus. Over the next few weeks, we will continue to stagger the times kids are coming into and out of school.

We recognize that this is not the end of the virus and even though staff have been vaccinated, they can still catch it and pass it on. Staff should be relatively unaffected by the virus or have it mildly, however we are aware that our pupils and families are not vaccinated. Carers can receive the vaccine now so do take up the opportunity to have it if you want to. All school staff are being tested twice a week also mostly self-tests at home, but we still have a small testing site in school. We are training some of our secondary school children to teach them how to self-test at home.

We are re-introducing forest school and swimming. The chlorine levels in the Swimming Pool are very high.

1. EHCP/ Annual Review Catch Up

We briefly mentioned this last time. We are looking to see if anyone is interested in a working party as we would love to hear parent's views on this process. The local authority has produced some resources about the Annual Review process that it would be good to review. This information is coming out after Easter. Bradley explained how ECHP forms vary in their quality with information in the wrong boxes or not using the correct terms or not giving enough information. It would helpful to see it from the parent's perspective so that we can put in place the correct support, as well as helping us to challenge the local authority to make sure that the EHCP system works well.

DB shared how the EHCP process is completed before the child comes to the school so parents are often having to fight the local authority to ensure that their child’s needs are recognised and adequate provision is provided. Support around the Annual Review process would be helpful.

SW mentioned that they have been through the review for several years and the review has not been updated except for crossing out on draft review, which still contained details about attending nursery. They have finally got a formally updated review this year.

Bradley explained that the EHCP’s should only be updated when there have been significant changes. It must be updated at the end of the Foundation stage (reception), at the end of KS1 and KS2 – key transition points. However we know that there have been capacity issues amongst the team at Bucks County Council. There have been improvements in this recently. One of the reasons these changes should be made is so that the outcomes are updated. The termly breakdowns of the outcomes are in the PPP targets. It would be good to get parents views on the PPP too. Bradley would like there to be more of a parent voice captured in the PPP, which could be looked in the working group.

1. Update on Parent Events

Liz shared information on parent events coming up next term and this term. We are continuing to have the sessions online.

There is one more Recharge session this term. Recharge is about parent’s self care and taking time out from everything, as well as being an opportunity to meet with other parents. It is also a space where people can share issues they are having and Liz can help with these. For example, at the last Recharge there was a discussion on taxis and the problems people have with them. Liz is now following this up with the Transport team to ensure that there is consistency.

Next term, we have coming up:

* Bucks Carers Trust coming to do a session about how they can support you and also how they can support siblings who are young carers. They will be running the session in English, as well as repeating the session in Urdu and Punjabi.
* Recharge will be continuing next term and will be moving to the daytime.
* Coffee mornings
* Annual Review Focus Group as mentioned by Bradley.
* Epilepsy workshop hosted by our school nurse Helen.
* Supporting your Child’s Wellbeing course will be run again by Bucks Adult Learning.
* When Dreams Change Course will be run again by Liz if there is interest.
* Basic First Aid – we are hoping to be able to run this at the end of the Summer term, however this is dependent on being able to run the group in person.
* Zones of Regulation run by SALT team.

The dates will be sent out soon.

Liz asked for parents to let her know if there are any courses or workshops they might be interested in attending.

SW asked about the Puberty workshop. Liz advised that staff are being trained in providing a course called Teen Life, which includes a session on Puberty. This will likely be starting late Autumn term. Staff will also be training in Early Bird Plus which is for parents of primary school aged children with Autism.

1. Parent Volunteers Update

Liz explained that Parent Volunteers are parents who want to come and help out at school. It has mainly been indoors preparing materials for the teachers, however we have in the past done some outdoor work in the gardens. With COVID we will be looking at doing outdoor projects. Liz has contacted the teachers to ask for ideas and will be hopefully looking at getting some started next term.

1. Any questions?

 Liz highlighted the information about the Disabled Children’s Register and the Max card, which has recently been sent out and included in Parentlink.

DB acknowldged that his wife had attended several courses, which she has found really helpful. He asked about the attendance rate at courses and whether this has changed with COVID. Liz explained that running the courses online means that we are meeting different people to who we might have had on courses before. It has opened it up to more people, as well as parents being able to attend as they are able to move their work hours around as they are working from home. Some courses, for example, When Dreams Change, can be run during the evening if that would be helpful for parents. Please do let Liz know if that would help.

Training courses will go back to being in person, which has many benefits to it, but Liz would also like to continue to run some courses online as there are benefits to this, such as cutting out travel times and being able to flex it into work hours.

The courses tend to be in the morning, but could be run early afternoon. Liz is open to changing things if it helps. Please do let Liz iknow if there is something you want to attend, but cannot make the time/day.

SW asked a question about the school pick up which seems very chaotic with cars moving and gates open. Will we be returning to the usual pick up times soon?

We are monitoring this. Bradley explained that we will be working towards going back to what we were doing before. There should be no cars or taxis moving whilst children are being moved around to ensure their safety. Up until Easter, we will continue to have to pick up time extended (2.45-3.15pm) to stagger out parents. We are aware that there are cars queing back along Verney Avenue. This is not helped by building work vans on the road and local people not going out to work so having their cars on the street. We would like to return to normal 3pm pick up at the earliest so that the children have more time in school again. This is likely to change after Easter.

DB – when there has been an issue it has been where there is no space in the car park and so parents have parked on the road outside, which has blocked the road. Rhonda explained that she was out on the road yesterday instructing people not to come in if there were no spaces and we will continue to do this.

Liz thanked everyone for their contributions and their time before closing the meeting.