

Parent Forum Minutes 7th February 2025

Mr West welcomed everyone and started by explaining the purpose of the Google form sent out to parents where they can raise issues they would like to be discussed at the meeting. Submitting questions in advance gives staff time to speak to relevant people and prepare the answers fully.

★ New Build

Mr West showed the latest plans of the school site and explained the new access arrangements (please see the letter sent to all parents on Thursday 6th February 2025).

He also explained the new arrangements for children using the field and MUGA for the next few weeks. He discussed why the arrangements had to be made and also why it wasn't workable to go through the Infant school grounds.

Question - Where will the containers be moved to, specifically the PTA one?

The containers will be moved to their new permanent home at the front of the new school site and will be easily accessible.

Question - Is there asbestos in the CLASP building and if so, will the children be safe from it when it is demolished?

All asbestos is removed from the building prior to any demolition taking place.

If further asbestos is discovered during the demolition that wasn't discovered in the 'refurbishment & demolition survey', works are stopped, stringent precautionary measures put in place and further HSE notifications submitted before the work recommences safely. The asbestos is covered and made temporarily safe within airtight enclosures.

Asbestos removal works are heavily monitored by the HSE and the utmost diligence is applied to these high risk works due to the nature of the material.

The children will be completely safe from any removal and subsequent demolition works taking place.

Current year 3s will move to the new building for the summer term. Current year 2 children will be in the renovated Victorian building/current Year 6 classrooms when they join the school in September 2025 and move across to the new building in September 2026 when they are in year 4.

★ **Communication**

Parents have stated that they didn't always know which child the communication was referring to if they had more than one child at the school. All communication has now been changed to ensure that the child's class appears on the email or letter.

★ **How often are the toilets monitored?**

It was explained that we don't have the staff to constantly monitor all of the toilets. However, the children know to tell an adult if there is an issue and either the site manager or the office will see to it. All toilets are cleaned every day. Some of the toilets in the CLASP building are at the end of their life, however, the building is soon to be demolished and the toilets in the new building are a much better design.

★ **Girls' football team**

Some parents are very disappointed about the lack of a girls' football team. They appreciate the Fulham Girls' club on Fridays but it isn't the same as having a school team playing in competitions etc. It was explained that clubs are limited by the staff available to run them and also the space to hold them, both of which we currently don't have. However, we will take the points onboard and will look into it. If we can find a coach for a girl's football team or netball team it will likely fall on a day when there is choir, so children may have to choose which club they prefer.

There was also a request for a netball club as secondary schools often pick their teams early in year 7. The issue of girls' sport in general was raised, and the importance of getting girls involved in sport at a young age.

Mr West talked about the clubs available and explained the limitations we have, namely teachers willing and available to do them, and also space on the field and, for winter, in halls..

★ **Could we introduce age appropriate financial responsibility and budgeting to the curriculum**

Miss Dunne (Maths leader last year) introduced these type of resources linked to the maths curriculum which is taught in the summer term of Year 6.

★ **Is it possible for the school to notify parents of the upcoming workshops and costs associated at the beginning of each term**

We do try to give as much notice as possible but we can't guarantee giving parents a full term's notice. There are many factors involved in booking trips. Some suppliers do not offer early bookings and others are small businesses with limited admin facilities which are trickier to book. Teachers also have to fit planning a trip and booking it around their teaching commitments.

Regarding trips being duplicated between the infant and junior schools, we do try to communicate with the infant school but we are two separate schools and we often

don't know what trips they are doing. We have previously changed trips to avoid repeat visits. It's also worth noting that even though we may take the children to the same place, the Science Museum for example, our focus will be different to the infant trip with different workshops and exhibitions.

★ **What are the alternatives if a workshop is not right for a child?**

There are some workshops that are part of the curriculum, such as RE and RSE. However, parents are notified that they can withdraw their child from certain parts of the RSE sessions if they contact the school office in advance. In other workshops, if a child was really upset, they would be placed in another class if possible.

★ **Parent/Visitor code of conduct**

Teachers are always happy to talk to parents about issues with their child. However, Mrs Utting stressed that it is not possible to speak at length at the classroom door at drop off. Teachers have a class waiting for them and often the children can hear the conversation.

If the issue is urgent you will be directed to the office where we will arrange for someone to see you. Otherwise, please email your concern and we will arrange for the teacher to call you or make an appointment for you to come in to see them. This means that we can speak to the people involved and deal with your concerns more effectively. It was suggested that we send comms out to parents to explain this in more detail.

There has been a small increase in parents approaching other children to address the situation themselves. Adults should not be talking to other children and all concerns should be raised through the school.

★ **Whole school lockdown practice**

Once a year we tell the children that a wild animal has escaped from Chessington and is outside the school. We close all doors and pull down the blinds and ask the children to be very quiet.

Obviously this would be more difficult at drop off or pick up - at the moment the plan would be to gather as many people as possible inside before we 'lockdown'. We have considered practicing at that time to see how it would work. Parents were not keen on this idea! Parents would not comply, would possibly panic and mistake it for a real situation and call the police, or simply take their child and leave. It would be very hard to communicate with parents who sometimes do not read all school comms. The staff have had training on this scenario in a recent INSET day, supported by good advice from the police.

Parents and carers shared their views - all of them felt that to do a lockdown drill at pick up or drop off would be very stressful and upsetting.

★ Smart phones

This is a huge and very personal issue, everyone has their own view. We are currently discussing this with our cluster of local schools.

We have noticed the following;

- Children are reluctant to come off their phones in the playground at the start and end of the day.
- They are reluctant to put their phones away in the classroom.
- On rare occasions they use their phones to record teaching or learning or take photos in school.
- There are fallouts and bullying online, late in the evening and often using apps that they are not old enough for.

Some schools have banned smart phones from their site completely and urged the parents to buy non smart phones or use AirTags to track their children. There is a growing movement amongst parents to try to slow the desire for smartphones which in turn will reduce the peer pressure. A school ban is something that we are considering - we will work with schools in our local cluster and may decide to do something collectively as this will carry more weight. We will also be trying to gently encourage parents and carers to put their phones away when on site at drop off and pick up especially.

This is an ongoing issue and will be discussed further.