

Meeting:	Parent/Carer Forum
Date and Time:	1 st November 2017 at 6.30pm
Venue:	Hagley Primary School (HPS)
Representing HPS:	Vanessa Payne (Head Teacher), John Burkes (Chair of Governors) and Tess Davis (Governor)
Representing Parents/Carers:	Shuva Bateman, Aparina Anumakonda, Anna Smith, Charlotte Zimmermann, Emma Downes, Alison Lowe, Dawn Collett, Sameen Irfan and Arti Sobainsky
Apologies:	Amanda Everton and Alison Akers

Agenda:

Two topics were chosen from the Parent Questionnaire:

1. Financial contributions for trips and curriculum events
2. Communication

1. Financial Contributions

A handout was given to everyone showing:

- Voluntary Contributions to School Trips.
- A breakdown of the trips for last school year showing the cost of the trip, the amount collected and the deficit.
- A list of trips by year group, cost of the trip and the total each year had to pay.
- A list of trips planned for this school year.

The budget from the government covers the curriculum and is enough to run the school. This is currently being used to cover trip shortfalls. This financial year since 1st April 2017 the school has funded shortfalls of £1,957.85.

Parents never subsidise other children's attendance on any trip.

The school are not allowed to make a profit on a trip.

The cost of a trip is divided by 30 in a class.

The school has to pay any shortfall.

It is a legal requirement to put on letters the comment regarding contributions are voluntary.

There is an increasing shortfall of payments for some trips. Why is this - cost, frequency, type? Parentpay was discussed. Some people do not find it user friendly. You can set this up to send you a reminder to pay for a trip.

HPS to try and plan so not asking for lots all at once, especially at the beginning of term when school lunches, instrument tuition etc are paid.

Look at cutting Y4 & Y6 dance workshops and the synagogue trip in Y2 as these are the highest shortfalls.

KS2 often more trips as the curriculum is more complex so get experts into help.

Aim is to make the curriculum as interesting and enriching as possible with trips and workshops. If parents think too much then maybe need to look at reigning in.

Question was asked if you could change Parentpay to pay a voluntary amount instead of paying the whole amount. This was discussed and it was decided it was not a good thing as it may encourage people not to pay the full amount. Please speak to the school if you can make some contribution.

Y3 Swimming lessons were discussed in detail. 20% of people do not pay. School are seriously considering the viability of running the swimming. School do not receive any additional payment

from the government to cover this it is funded by parent contributions. Should only those that can't swim be offered lessons? Should the number of lessons be reduced? The six weeks offered is not enough time to teach everything that is expected in the curriculum.

The cost of trips from each year group was discussed. Each year group is different. Y4 and Y6 a lot due to PGL.

Due to the size of the school any shortfalls have been able to be absorbed, but it is getting more and more difficult to do and school won't be able to continue to do this.

2. Communication

Following on from last meeting regarding communication the school have tried to send out more regular reminders and also send out messages in the body of an email, not as an attachment.

The website was discussed. Getting feedback it is not up to scratch. Is a parent able to come in and help with this? Someone with expertise in web design?

Haybridge 6th formers for IT do this kind of thing, could they be approached to help?

The calendar is very full – can regular events like PSI, choir etc be removed and only put the start and end dates on?

The class information is often not up to date and incorrect. Gallery pictures are out of date.

Can the PTA have access to change their area on the website?

Haybridge SIMS was shown by Tess Davis, this was considered too detailed for HPS at present.

Can get an APP of the calendar to link to your phone. Anna Smith to explain.

How you communicate into school was discussed. In Reception the 'green book' is used and you do not get to see the teachers in the morning now as children are going straight into class. Messages can be given on the gate in the morning and you can email the school who reply within 24 hours; this was felt adequate.

Tudor dress up day was discussed briefly and how parents buy costumes and incur expense and waste as not used again. More details on letters will be added with ideas on what can be worn and a note on whether home clothes or school uniform to be worn if a child is not dressing up.

Next meeting: Thursday 25th January 2018 at 6.30pm
Lunchtime and bullying to be discussed.