

Parent Forum Meetings: 1st and 5th November 2018

These meetings were advertised in the Newsletter, through Class Reps and through reminder texts. The times were chosen to try to accommodate as many parents as possible and in total 26 people attended

Welcome and Intro: Louisa

Louisa welcomed everyone to the forum and explained this is a new way for parents to communicate with the school. A communication chart was distributed which helped show the many different ways that the school community communicate together. Her role in this meeting was to help facilitate as there was a lot to discuss.

2. Intro from Johanna Family Voice: Bintu (Chair)

Bintu explained that all parents belong to Johanna Family Voice and everyone has a part to play as we all work together to achieve the best for our children and ensure they are part of a warm and welcoming community. She outlined her role as well as the secretary and treasurer roles and also explained the class rep roles.

She reported that class reps had met for a planning day at the beginning of October. Paul David had attended and explained he will be working together with male parent carers to encourage engagement amongst them. The Reps felt it was appropriate to have a forum meeting 3 times a year, with the last meeting of the year to be an AGM and include a more formalised appointments process for the upcoming year. As part of these efforts JFV would be re-joining the national PTA association.

Actions:

- ◆ **Bintu to formally feedback to Paul about meeting and how pleased the parents were with the conversation.**
- ◆ **Class reps to ensure class WhatsApp groups and noticeboards are up to date.**
- ◆ **Sarah to process joining national PTA association.**

3. Academy Councillors report: Raquel and Claire

Raquel and Claire, new Parent Reps of the Academy Council introduced themselves and discussed a recent strategy day with Oasis Hub. They updated on the following:

Police Station: Oasis are trying to purchase the site as a community asset.

Oasis Healthcare: This is a new Oasis project to help with calorie reduction and sugar reduction to reduce obesity within Lambeth. It was noted that there are leads within our school community who are part of the steering group with David Tchilingirian

Hope House: Oasis project raised money for a house in Oval for a Syrian family. The family arrived this week. Volunteers are needed – anyone interested should speak to Louisa.

BOST: Raquel attends BOST meetings which occur every three months. There was concern about anti-social behaviour in the area, and especially in Millennium Green. She reported on efforts to change the water feature which will become a new 'river bed' for kids. Raquel organised OAJ involvement in their 'time capsule project'. Raquel informed the group that an application has been made for Millennium Green to have a licence to host live music and sell alcohol. There was a discussion about the implications on the licencing

Action: Raquel to arrange for a link to the consultation on the premises license to be added to the newsletter.

Academy Council Meeting:

Claire talked through the agenda for the upcoming Academy Council meeting. This would be an item on all future Parent Forum agendas because, as the parent representatives to the Academy Council, they want to seek input into what is going to be discussed. It was important for key decisions to have timely input and have a way to engage parents in decisions. Claire asked if specific questions that parents want raised and the following two were asked:

- Why are the minutes of the Academy Council not published on the website?

Tara explained that there is an OCL policy but that as a school we are happy to share minutes. We will check with Steve Chalke – AC Chair if we can do this.

- is there a possibility for Oasis leadership to consider more formal links between OAJ & OASB so that children can stay part of the Oasis family from nursery all the way through to secondary and on to sixth form? Tara explained that admissions to schools is a legal procedure, it has been raised previously and should be raised again at Academy Council.

Action: Claire to raise those two items at the Academy Council and to report back on response.

4. Home School Agreement: Tara

Every school is required to have one and ours has not been updated for some time. There was a discussion about getting parental input and a desire to make it more inclusive. It was hoped that would be a simplified version which would give a 'we're in this together' feeling. It was suggested that the children be engaged as well. It was also suggested that the Oasis 9 habits and ethos should be integral to this agreement, in the same way as children's targets are now linking more explicitly to ethos.

Action: The first draft of the home school agreement will go to the Pupil Parliament. They can tell us what they want from their parents and the staff and then it would go back for final agreement with the school and the parents.

5. After school activities: Tara

There was a general discussion about after school activities as this was considered a high priority for parents. There are clubs and activities on offer, but not for all children, every day. Some are by invitation, some first come, first served. There are more for older children than younger. Some are free, some subsidised and some at cost. Some are far more popular than others, some activities had a lot of interest initially, and then dwindled over time.

Tara noted that there were two main challenges: There was limited space and was largely limited to the use of the hall. There was also a challenge of staffing and costs. There has been a senior leadership decision to not expect teachers to lead after school activities. It was agreed that both school and parents need to think 'creatively' as to how we can best serve the children in this. Parents wrote ideas down on sheets of paper regarding what activities / clubs they would like to see, when, who could run them and how we can solve cost issues.

There was a discussion about after school activities and the following points were raised:

- ◆ There could perhaps be a combined activity for children, staff, parents- perhaps a 'health space'
- ◆ There could be a move to more 'enrichment' one off activities, such as the time capsule day
- ◆ Cost could be subsidised by JFV
- ◆ If there were Teaching Assistants/other staff who could be available for a certain day, then parents could also run an activity (need to have a person with DBS for safeguarding reasons)
- ◆ In some other local schools, teachers are expected to run clubs. Why don't teachers at Johanna? Tara said that this was an expectation at Johanna in the past, but with rising teacher workload, the decision was made to stop this.
- ◆ Some parents had been unhappy with the after-school club running off site. It was felt that in future these types of issues are the type that a parent forum will help to engage parents with in a more inclusive way.

Action: Tara to look at current club offer and consider the ideas raised and written on the sheets, to feed back at next meeting

6. Update from school leadership team and Q&A: Tara

Results had improved from the previous years and results are above national average in all areas. Highlights are:

Reception: 87% good level of development.

Year 1: Phonics: 93%

Key stage 1: all results above national average

Year 6: had reached or exceeded the expected standard – ahead of national average.

Southbank GCSE results were well above the national, the highest in Lambeth and exceptionally high across London

We should celebrate these results!

Action: The new school prospectus to be available to all parents to share within community.

Specific questions raised from parents:

- ◆ Can parents have teachers' emails for communication regarding homework and other matters?
Tara said that the system is that any questions/concerns from parents come into the info@oasisjohanna.org email address and this is checked regularly throughout the day. In this way the questions raised can be signposted appropriately and efficiently. If anyone finds their questions have not been passed on, please can they let Tara know.
- ◆ Can children attend more trips? Is cost an issue? Can we get free tickets from places like London Eye etc.?
Children regularly attend trips and local attractions and theatres often offer free or discounted tickets. Every trip must connect in to the curriculum and enrich the children's learning. It is sometimes more of a challenge for trips to be arranged for younger years due to higher ratio of adults needed.
- ◆ There is a lot of congestion outside Y1 & 2 which is causing concern. What can be done?
Is this something that class reps can support with? Is this something that parents can support each other with? It was noted that outside Y3 & 4 there is also congestion and the layout of the school means that it is difficult to avoid. It was noted that when the teachers stand at the door this encourages parents to be patient in waiting. Everyone agreed that this is something we need to work together on.

How we communicate together & support each other:

WHO:

School leadership: Executive Principal
Associate Principal
Assistant Principal

Parent Support: Chaplain
Inclusion Manager
All class teachers
School leadership

Academy Council: Representatives from across the Hub and wider community, including parent councillors.

JFV (Johanna Family Voice): all parents are part of the Family.

Leadership: Chair
Treasurer
Secretary

Parent Class Reps: 2 parents per class who volunteer to act as a voice for the class to communicate reminders but also to meet regularly with class teacher to communicate class priorities and any positives or concerns from parents.

HOW:

Open door policy: all parents can speak with teachers and school leadership on any day, an appointment can be made if the conversation will need more time.

ParentSpace: Each Friday 9a.m-10a.m in the school library: a weekly, relaxed informal space facilitated by the Chaplain – a time to share tea/coffee and get to know others. A great place to talk together about the highs & lows of parenting and find out more about local support and resources.

Occasionally there will be a guest speaker/workshop and there is also opportunity to speak 1-1 for support on specific issues.

Dads' Group: Each Thursday 9a.m-10a.m in the school library: a space for all male carers to meet together for support and to plan projects within the school.

Johanna Family Parent Forum: Each term (three times a year) a chance for all parents to meet to discuss highlights of the term, any concerns and ideas for the next term. Parent academy councillors will share news from across the hub. School leadership will be available to answer questions and discuss items raised.

Parent Reps:
Regular conversations with parents and teacher.

Noticeboard – to display their photos & important notices for class.

Class WhatsApp group for quick reminders.

Events: Regular events throughout the year for parents and staff to share and celebrate as a Family.