

## ST PAULINUS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

As children of God at St Paulinus, we strive to **nurture** the gifts given to us by God so that our school is a happy, caring place where everyone is valued, safe and able to learn and grow.

***“Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them” (Romans 12,6)***

***NURTURE: Knowledge, Curiosity, Resilience, Respect, Spirituality, Creativity & Love***

### **PARENT FORUM MEETING AGENDA**

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023 2pm

#### **1. Introductions**

YrR - Mrs C Olabisi

Yr2 - Mrs B Ishola

Yr3 - Miss G Daniels

Yr6 - Mrs K Clarke

Mrs K Sukonik - Assistant Principal

Mrs J Joynes - Chair of Governors

Mr D Crook - Governor

Mrs C Rhodes - Principal

Apologies received from Mrs L Seal - Yr4 rep

#### **2. SEND - communication and current wait times**

Local Authority wait times get updated every Monday morning – from this week:

Community Paediatrics (developmental concerns) is now 46 weeks

Occupational Therapy 30 weeks

Speech and Language 10-12 weeks

Physiotherapy 18 weeks.

There is no way of the school shortening these wait times, school will only be in contact when there is new information to be shared.

The role of the SENDCO is to coordinate the SEND work within the school. She may well go into classes to observe children but does not do direct interventions with children, when this was done by our previous SENDCO – this was in her role as class teacher.

#### **3. Trips – PTA contributions, more trips, clarity of information for the day of the trip**

PTA contributions are being used – we have been advised that currently this is £10 a child as opposed to a set amount for each class. For those classes who did not use the funds last academic year (current Yr6 and Yr2) these are still available and being earmarked for future educational visits. Educational visits are being organised for all year groups – this does take time and planning, sometimes there are

up to 6 month waits for available slots. Teachers have been looking at where visits or visitors will enhance the new curriculum and learning for their children. We have asked our teachers to look out for opportunities that are minimal or no cost as apart from the PTA contributions, there is not the budget to subsidise these activities from school funds.

Letters for these educational visits should have all the information parents require and we will reiterate this with all staff. Visits outside of the local area will by their very nature include more information as children may be using public transport and need a packed lunch.

It was noted by school staff that free educational visits are just as worthy and useful as those that are paid for.

Parents would appreciate being given as much notice as possible when being asked to come along and then given a prompt response as to whether they are needed.

#### **4. Behaviour**

All behaviour that is brought to a member of staff attention is dealt with in line with our behaviour policy which can be found on the website. Following recent visitor feedback, we are proud of the general behaviour around the school. We cannot police what goes on outside of school but when something is brought to our attention we do speak with children involved if there is an impact within school. We see there is a need to educate both children and adults about bullying – what this looks like and how it will be dealt with. Our Year 6 children have helped to design a child friendly version of our sanctions for poor behaviour choices and will be instrumental in launching these with all classes in the New Year. The school would urge all children and parents to speak with their class teacher in the first instance if they are concerned, rather than resorting to the class WhatsApp group to alleviate any confusion or create misunderstandings.

Suggestion to speak more often with older children to reinforce them as role models and be clear on the expectations of them with the younger children.

#### **5. Communication – amount of emails, clarity around year groups**

There are a number of communications that need to go out to parents and these come from a variety of sources; office, SLT, class teachers, PTA and governors – although we do try to coordinate these so there are not multiple messages in a day – this can be a challenge when messages need to go to specific year groups. We are mindful that previously we have been asked for greater communication and this can be a balancing act to get right.

#### **6. School Dinners –portion sizes, choice, quality**

From the last discussions about school dinners, we have raised all your concerns through the contact with the Trust. Following a meeting held last week, we have been advised that there will be unannounced visits to check portion sizes and choice.

There was a recommendation to try to share the process if you have a child with dietary requirements as a parent had found this quite difficult to do with Edwards and Wards.

#### **7. Homework**

The parent consultation closed this term, the results have been collated and discussed with staff. There is a staff meeting next week in which teachers will be given the specific details of what they need to plan and prepare for their class over the Christmas break ready for their return in January. The results of the survey will be shared with parents.

#### **8. Volunteers**

We are really grateful to the parents who have expressed an interest in volunteering at the school – they are now in the process of having all the relevant checks done – again, not a quick process which is out of the schools hands. We hope to be able to start making use of the time kindly offered as soon as possible.

#### **9. Buddies**

Year 6 are hoping to reinstate weekly buddy time in the New Year once swimming lessons are complete.

#### **10. Community links**

We have already approached some links – we had an email from a local secondary asking about their volunteer day and we responded the same day to say we had a lovely forest area that we would love to have help with after two chases we are still awaiting a response. Some of the programmes that have previously been run by secondary schools in the area are unfortunately victims of the funding cuts. We would welcome any suggestions of events and support to arrange these after consultation with the staff. We are currently in talks with the musical director from the church to begin a school choir. We are also in the process of developing links ready for Science week in March.

#### **Next meeting date:**

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024 2pm

#### **Deadline for agenda items:**

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024