



WOBURN LOWER SCHOOL
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PARENTS FORUM 28.9.2021

Thank you to the parents who attended our forum today. It was good to have some 'real' contact with parents and we had some really good suggestions and ideas.

We started off the meeting by saying how grateful all the staff are for the support that parents have given to their children and to us since the pandemic began.

Although there has been a small decline in the academic achievement and social and emotional development of most children due to lockdown, the school is confident that they are gradually progressing to the levels that we would expect of them. Your help with this, in terms of homework and reading in particular, is invaluable.

In the classrooms, we have been giving extra time to social and emotional development activities, such as circle time and values education. Children can also be referred by teachers or parents and carers to spend some time in our pastoral area, having some 1:1 or small group time.

In all year groups, work is differentiated and supported by teachers and teaching assistants in the classrooms. Many children are also given intervention time – either 1:1 or in a small group, to further support their learning.

We discussed how pleased we all were that we can now return to real books for reading and taking books home from the library. We do feel that children missed out on much of the enjoyment of books and stories during lockdown and so we are developing a school reading action plan, which parents at the Forum contributed ideas to:

- We could ask all parents to make a donation of one book to the library, particularly for EYFS and KS1 – Mrs Black has a suggestion list of books
- It would also be useful for parents if they had a list of suggested reading at home for their child's age group – Mrs Black will look into this
- It was suggested that we carry out a reading challenge this year, but with different levels of books – we agreed that this would be a good idea



- Spellings were discussed – we will look into having the same format for spelling homework in all classes
- Mrs Black is currently putting together a reading corner letter, which gives advice to parents about reading
- Parents asked about story time in classes, which happens daily in every class
- Parent volunteers are coming in to read – we are just waiting for their DBS forms
- We discussed particular skills that parents may have – inviting parents into school to work with children accordingly ie: sewing, cookery, reading, acting, singing, gardening and also coming into school to tell the children about the jobs that they do. We think that these are great ideas to do after Christmas
- We talked about buying books written by child authors, which would be a real inspiration to the children, and about encouraging the children to write books in school, which could be kept in the class or hall library and about writing song lyrics
- We also talked about setting up a Woburn monthly news bulletin, which is a great idea
- We then discussed the allotments – a letter will be sent out soon asking for parent help and about starting up forest school again this year

Miss Freeman and I also met up with the school council on the same day – minutes from this meeting can be found on the school website under the children’s section.

The next Parent’s Forum will be before Christmas – we will let you know the details next term.

Best wishes

Sharon Longmuir

