



RAGLAN PARENT FORUM

DATE: January 23th 2015

SUBJECT: “Developing the whole child” – Do you feel your child is offered a balanced education at Raglan?

- 1. MUSIC – Parents are concerned that as Mrs Critten has left the music provision will not be taken up by another teacher. Are there any plans for increasing the music offering at Raglan? Suggestions include a school band and choir.**

Music continues to be an important part of the curriculum at Raglan. Plans are being put in place for Year 4 to learn a musical instrument for a 10 week period in the summer. KS2 singing will be taken by a singing teacher during the summer term. Other options are being investigated with the help of BYMT.

- 2. ART – Parents are concerned that the Art provision is not structured enough. There seems to be art at Christmas and Easter but not in between. Some suggestions include the introduction of an Art Club.**

Art and Design Technology are taught alternately during a term so both are covered each term. Often the work is related to the curriculum topic and may not be recognised as an ‘art’ lesson.

- 3. COMMUNITY – Is it possible for the children to get more involved in the local community? Friends of Whitehall Rec Ground were a suggested organisation for collaboration.**

The school is always looking for ways to engage with the local community. Recently years 1 and 6 were involved with planting bulbs at Whitehall Recreation Ground.

- 4. COOKING – Children had the opportunity to cook in previous years. Will this opportunity be offered again?**

Cooking is part of the curriculum at Raglan and will be taught as part of Design Technology.

- 5. COMMUNICATION OF CURRICULUM – Parents would still like to be better informed about the curriculum. The curriculum letters are good but ideally a weekly newsletter about what will be happening in the coming week will enable parents to support their child’s learning. Generally parents would like to know more about what their child’s school day consists of. Some suggestions include curriculum coffee mornings for parents, Maths courses or evenings and more advertising of the tutorials on the school web site. The key aim is to be able to support learning at home. Do teachers read everyday with children? There was a concern that books are not being changed regularly enough.**

The curriculum will continue to be communicated in termly curriculum letters. A weekly newsletter regarding curriculum would divert teachers time away from teaching and preparation. The option of curriculum evenings for parent may be looked at in the future. There is a wealth of resources on the school web site including videos made by the children explaining Maths and Phonics. Reading is currently being reviewed to provide consistency across the school.

- 6. EYFS CHANGES – There is some concern that the changes in EYFS are not being communicated. Reception parents have not been introduced to Mr Dalton or his plans for the EYFS provision. This has been an area of significant change and parents would like to be better informed.**

All reception parents have been invited to a coffee morning with EYFS leaders to discuss the changes taking place in this area.

- 7. BEHAVIOUR AND REWARDS – There was some discussion about the removal of Golden Time but parents are still unsure about why this course was taken. Is there going to be a replacement reward system? Can the House Point system be explained further to Parents and to KS1 children? Can parents be invited to celebration assemblies? Can more effort be made to recognise students achievements outside of school?**

The school behaviour policy has recently been reviewed and changes made to make it more consistent and accessible for everyone. This is currently in the consultation phase and should be adopted in the near future. The policy will be published on the schools web site and be available for all to read.

- 8. CHALLENGING MORE ABLE LEARNERS – There was a long discussion on the schools ability to challenge more able learners outside of the gifted and talented program. Some parents expressed that their child is bored at school and not sufficiently pushed to achieve higher targets. Is there a lead for Gifted and Talented as this member of staff has left?**

This is an area that is constantly under review and provision is being examined for more able pupils.

- 9. MRS BIRLEANU'S NEWSLETTER – Mrs Birleanu's regular newsletters are a welcome addition and well received by most parents. Could they also include an idea of what happens during lunchtimes and playtimes and maybe introduce some of the Mid Day supervisors? Can they also include advertisements for the video tutorials on the web site.**

We are looking into putting pictures of all staff on the school web site so visitors to our school can more easily identify staff.

- 10. SAFEGUARDING – Regarding changes to the school entrance policies. If children forget something after school is it possible for the children to be able to re-enter the building for a short period? Also there is a concern about the availability of toilets after school. Can students use the toilets in the junior playground or the Studio in an emergency? On school trips should students be wearing hi-vis jackets for better visibility? How are helpers identifiable? Should they have badges with a picture?**

Under the new safeguarding structure pupils will not be able to re-enter the school in the afternoons once the classes are released this is for the safety and wellbeing of your children. Toilets in the junior playground and studio are available for use if required after school. Hi-vis jackets are a good idea and are under consideration. Visitor badges in school are being renewed, their use on outings would be the next step.

11. BULLYING – A suggestion was made to have a dedicated staff member available to children to counter bullying.

A discussion followed outlining the “Listening Ear” which is proving popular with the children. This system allows children to put a simple note in a letter box which will be followed up by dedicated members of staff. As mentioned earlier the behaviour policy is also being reviewed.

12. LANGUAGE CLASS INTEGRATION – Parents feel that children in the language class do not get appropriate opportunity to interact with main stream classes. Including school play, school trips and after schools activities. Can this be improved? Can Parents be invited to appropriate events too – ie reception reading meetings?

Raglan endeavours to include all children in as many activities as possible. Specifically children in the language provision are encouraged to participate in school trips and events. Some practical elements such as transport can be problematic for after school activities.

13. KS1 SATS – Parents feel that there is a lack of communication about SATS and what is involved. Children appear to be confused as parents are told they do not have to worry about SATS but children are told they have to work hard as this is a SATS year. Can more information be given to all about SATS, what form they take and their purpose?

More information regarding SATS and testing will be included in an upcoming newsletter.

14. PPA COVER – There was a discussion regarding regular PPA cover and if the cover provided was to be a consistent person?

Every effort is made to provide consistent PPA cover for classes however this is not always possible.

15. AFTER SCHOOL CLUB – There was an announcement that the school would be launching an after school club this year. Is this still happening?

At present due to a lack of uptake the after school club will not be launched this year. This service was due to be offered by an external agency and is not economically viable without a minimum number of participants.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.

The next Parent Forum will be held on Tuesday May 12th 2015 at 9:00am and the subject of discussion will be “Dining In” School lunch times have recently been through a period of change with the introduction of free school meals for all KS1 students. How has this affected your child and how can we make lunch times a better experience for all?