



Great Gaddesden C of E (VA) Primary School

'Treat others exactly as you would like to be treated' (Luke 6:31)

Headteacher: Mr M. Beach
 Church Meadow
 Great Gaddesden
 Herts
 HP1 3BT

Parent Forum Meeting

Date: Thursday 30th April	Time: 9-10am	Location: Staffroom
---------------------------	--------------	---------------------

Attendees

- Mr Beach (Headteacher)
- Mrs Ivory (Year 5/6)
- Mrs Ryan (Year 1/2)
- Mrs Jeffery (EYFS & Y1/2)

Key: H/T = Headteacher

Item	Topic & Discussion	Actions
1.	Welcome to Parent Forum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome/introductions 	
2.	End of Year Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We plan to send these out electronically this year • This has become increasingly common in schools • The rationale behind this is to be more environmentally friendly, ensure parents have an electronic copy stored and reduce costs associated with printing. <p>Summary of discussion: Parents were positive about this change and understood the reasons why this decision has been made. Discussion took place about exploring the functionality of Arbor in future years.</p>	
3.	Dogs on the playground <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have had some mixed feedback about dogs on the playground • We have tried to set some expectations but these are not consistently adhered to. • Most schools do not allow dogs on the premises with the exception of assistance and school therapy dogs. • Dogs coming on site does cause concerns in regards to health & safety as well as liability and insurance. <p>Discussion around some parents feeling comfortable but others concerned about risks and reports of some children feeling uncomfortable around dogs. Concluded that for Health and Safety reasons and minimising any risks to the children, from this point forwards, no dogs to enter the playground/they must wait by the school gate (with the exception of assistance dogs).</p>	



Great Gaddesden C of E (VA) Primary School

'Treat others exactly as you would like to be treated' (Luke 6:31)

Headteacher: Mr M. Beach
 Church Meadow
 Great Gaddesden
 Herts
 HP1 3BT

<p>4.</p>	<p>Site Improvements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have been successful in securing a grant to replace the remaining timber framed windows, new main entrance door and side gate to the Spiritual/Sensory Garden. As we are in a conservation area, we need this approved by planning. We have quotes and designs but if any parents have expertise in planning applications (especially within a conservation area), please contact Mr Beach. 	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Clubs How are things going with current provision? Any thoughts for the Autumn term?</p> <p>Kiddle Arts and Crafts <i>Autumn term plans to continue as very popular.</i></p> <p>Talent X Cricket <i>Positive feedback but not as many children have attended than football. Football to be offered in Autumn as Cricket is a seasonal sport.</i></p> <p>Cheerleading: Saracens <i>Continue to provide in Autumn.</i></p> <p>Boxmoor Yoga <i>Yoga is quite quiet/numbers relatively low.</i></p> <p>General: <i>Is there an option to do a trial session/pay for one week? Or refund if the children do not like it?</i></p> <p><i>Unfortunately this is unlikely to be possible due to the admin associated with this and providers need security to see the club as viable for them to run.</i></p> <p>Ideas for Autumn: <i>Reach out to Busy Bakers</i> <i>Perform- would they provide a club?</i></p> <p><i>Could there be more variety for after school for the older children and possibly more access to the outside weather permitting.</i></p>	<p>H/T & Office Team to action</p> <p>H/T to feedback</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Swimming/Gymnastics</p> <p>We will continue to offer swimming in the Summer Term only, moving forwards in Key Stage 2 split with gymnastics. The rationale of doing less swimming than before is:</p> <p>a) The time it takes out of other curriculum areas as it takes a whole morning or afternoon every week the children attend.</p> <p>b) It is a small part of the statutory curriculum and the requirement is to provide instruction in one key stage to a specific standard which we are meeting.</p> <p>c) Rising costs (sports premium cannot be used for standard swimming and transport other than top-up swimming sessions for children who have</p>	



Great Gaddesden C of E (VA) Primary School

'Treat others exactly as you would like to be treated' (Luke 6:31)

Headteacher: Mr M. Beach
Church Meadow
Great Gaddesden
Herts
HP1 3BT

	<p>not reached the standard set out in the National Curriculum). The cost is substantial and is not sustainable to increase further. We did explore using the Community minibuses but they could not accommodate such a long block booking in advance. By taking all of KS2, we fill a coach which is more cost effective.</p> <p>d) Some feedback last year is some parents shared they access swimming lessons outside of school so were reluctant to contribute towards having lessons in school as well.</p> <p>e) We must balance with teaching other areas of PE and gymnastics must also be taught off site for junior aged children as this cannot be effectively and safely taught in a hall of our size.</p> <p>In response to some feedback about only half a term swimming, from next year we could offer a full term alternate years eg. Next year 5/6 could do a full term of swimming and 3/4 gymnastics and swap around the following year.</p> <p>Parents felt this was sufficient provision being offered, clear rationale and the children really enjoy the gymnastics.</p>	<p>Revisit discussion at future parent forums in preparation for Summer 2027 provision.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Local Roads & Safety</p> <p>Local councillor met with H/T in response to the letters from the Change Team for railings outside the school gates.</p> <p>Cllr Caroline Smith-Wright is due to propose this to highways but it may take some time.</p> <p>The Parish Council also discussed this proposal at a recent meeting but the responsibility as a public road/path lies with the county councillor/highways.</p> <p>H/T has added an option on the Sign-in App for parents to share lateness data with local councillor in terms of the impact the bridge at Water End has on punctuality and possible solutions.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The garden centre is only a few minutes walk and we need to promote using this more. • Year 5 (from the summer term) and Year 6 (all year) can walk alone if live in the village or a nearby place eg. from the Church etc if parents would like/consent to this <u>NB: parents would need to complete a walk to school alone permission slip and return to the office for this to be permitted. Parents take full responsibility for their child if this is chosen and children cannot wait in the school house garden unsupervised.</u> • In regards to the railings and bridge concerns, H/T suggested parents reach out to our local councillor directly to share concerns. <p>https://democracy.hertfordshire.gov.uk/mgUserInfo.aspx?UID=34603</p>	



Great Gaddesden C of E (VA) Primary School

'Treat others exactly as you would like to be treated' (Luke 6:31)

Headteacher: Mr M. Beach
 Church Meadow
 Great Gaddesden
 Herts
 HP1 3BT

7.	<p>AOB</p> <p><u>PE kits</u> Would it be possible for the children to come into school in PE kit? H/T shared that currently PE kits are not consistent or smart enough for this to be an option and changing independently is a life skill. However, from September, H/T would be prepared to consider this on the basis that the PE kit changes to a smarter option which would need to be consistently followed.</p> <p><u>Peripatetic tuition</u> Is there scope for more instrument lessons? This could be a possibility and H/T agreed to contact Herts Music Service to explore further.</p> <p><u>Events</u> Could afternoon events start a bit later? Yes</p> <p>The current date for Sports Day would clash with the paid for Swimming & Gymnastics. Is there scope for this to change? Yes- apologies- date change of 3rd July.</p> <p><u>Play Equipment</u> How often can the children access the climbing equipment? Is there still a rota? There is regular access and we are more relaxed with the need for a rota. Lots of children enjoy the Sports Coach sessions on a Tuesday and Wednesday lunch time so it frees up the apparatus more.</p>	<p>Parents in attendance to gain feedback from other parents about this proposal.</p> <p>HT to contact Beat School Uniforms to explore options</p> <p>Vote/consultation shared with all parents for a decision to be in place for September (either to keep the same or change)</p> <p>Uniform policy to be amended as required.</p> <p>H/T to contact Herts Music Service</p> <p>H/T to share new date in the newsletter.</p>
----	---	--

Date & Time of the next meeting:

Date: 30th June Time: 2-3:00pm