

## Parent Forum minutes 06.06.2018 Theme - Communication

- Children are attending tournaments and competitions without the necessary practice to know how to compete in them.
- Parents feel that it's great to have the competitions open to all children but if they attend and it's a negative experience then we may do more harm than good – could these children have a crash course so they at least know the rules of the game beforehand or if no time maybe choose children with prior experience? Parents may be happy to help with a crash course or support on the day in future?? But are very thankful for time staff give to run these.
- More notice needs to be given to parents about school trips or competitions.
- Parents need notification if they are or are not helping on a school trip quicker as many are booking time off work and then they are not needed.
- With regard to paying for trips – can parents have a breakdown of costings as many don't understand why they are so expensive when they know how cheap it is to get into a particular venue. This may mean more are willing to contribute and more experiences may be open to the children.
- Can parents know at the start of the year (first newsletter) an approximate costing for the year? Could they have a direct debit each month to pay for them and then be asked for any additional costs (if the cost has increased)? Would parentmail do this on the payment system?
- On the payment system when do odd amounts clear that don't need to be paid i.e. trip missed?
- Are there more trips that can happen locally - are we using all opportunities available locally to extend learning?
- Look into free swimming available from Freedom Leisure (Lauren Chandler). How might swimming change in the future with schools now needing to teach life skills and 25m swimming? Parents feel we should always do a session whilst they are young to ensure insecurities are tackled before they grow. Could parents also be given the head's up that private lessons are important prior to the year that the school take them as children can't learn to swim in just a short course.

I have spoken to the locality organisers who will review the range of tournaments on offer and decrease them. The thought is that we can then include more of them in our teaching so children are experienced in the skills and rules before competing.

We are trying a different way of organising trips so we have notice from staff about most trips at the start of the year. This will then mean that we can put them all onto pluspay and parents can see when they are and budget better – paying for them monthly or in advance.

On the payment system the odd amounts clear when the office clear the system which is not a set frequency. It will be done at the end of each year.

My thought is that when I have a list of trips, for next year, from all year groups I will be able to review the range of opportunities for the children. I will aim for a range of local trips, cultural experiences and links to learning.

I have the info from Freedom Leisure and will look into this.

- Next week on the Friday flyer can we detail all communication streams and how to access them and what they're for?
  - Friday flyer
  - Rustington Round up
  - Twitter
  - Facebook for PTA (parents can comment)
  - Facebook for school (no comments just school news)
  - Parentmail app

This has been completed.  
Details are on the 11<sup>th</sup> June  
Friday Flyer (Keeping in  
Touch) and in the new  
school Prospectus.

Marie Smailes 06/06/2018