



## PARENT FORUM

14.03.24

Thank you to all those who submitted questions and queries to the Parent Forum. It is really great to see parents engaging. These questions have been discussed by the Governors at our recent Governing Body meeting. Please find below the questions and responses.

<b>Why don't you run school holiday clubs?</b>	We have carefully considered this point but pride ourselves on a school which is regularly refurbished and maintained to the highest standard. It should be noted that all our works are carried out during the holiday period and therefore we would be unable to run any holiday provision safely. However, we do signpost parents to holiday provision in the local area and will continue to do so.
<b>Can we return to face to face parents' evenings?</b>	There are pros and cons to both face to face and virtual parents evenings. However, having given this great consideration, we are aware that virtual parents' evenings are much more inclusive as we have a significantly higher percentage of working parents who are now able to attend meetings. We have seen a dramatic increase in meetings where both parents are able to attend with minimal impact on working arrangements. We offer other opportunities throughout the year to meet with the teacher face to face, such as parent drop ins, and we would like to remind all parents that should you ever need a 1:1 conversation with the classteacher, this can be booked through the school office.
<b>If your child is going through a SEND route, is there a flowchart parents could have that show the steps?</b>	We recognise that the journey for parents of children with SEND can often feel a bit like navigating uncharted territory. These can often feel rather daunting and unsettling times for families and this is often apparent when families are unaware of the next steps. I know parents will appreciate that each child with special educational needs often has a rather unique and personalised pathway which is best fitted to their child's needs. However, we think this might be quite a useful tool and we are therefore looking into creating something to support families in understanding the steps which may be taken. Thank you for this suggestion.
<b>Does Hordle have an approved list of low-stimulating shows to choose from when teachers choose to offer screen time?</b>	The school does not have an approved list of low-stimulating TV shows. During the school day, children may watch short clips to support them in their learning. The school uses: CBBC Bitesize, Numberblocks and CBBC Newsround as appropriate on occasion. Very rarely, pupils may watch a film or film clips as part of the curriculum at the end of term. These are always previewed and where permission needs to be sought, this will be done by contacting parents.
<b>Is your school using a punishment-based reward system?</b>	<p>This is certainly <b>not</b> the case.</p> <p>In January 2024, the school approved a new behaviour policy which was written based heavily on research into child development. Our new behaviour policy is inspired by the principles shared in Paul Dix's, 'When the Adult Changes, everything changes.' This approach to behaviour is deeply rooted in forming</p>

	relationships with pupils. Where behaviour does need to be addressed, all staff have been trained in conducting restorative conversations to support children in moving forwards. We are very proud of our behaviour.
<b>The ILD (Interactive Learning Diary for EY pupils) is a poor app. We can't see photos clearly. Can this be changed?</b>	We very much value your feedback and are sorry to hear that there have been some issues with the app. A number of parents at the forum shared their experiences with ILD and we will now feed back to the company to see if there is anything they can do to address these glitches. We are investigating this and hope to have a resolution soon.
<b>Can the choir look into participating in the Youth Voices project next year?</b>	Last year, our school took part in a local school's community project with Highcliffe School where they performed at the Regent's centre in Christchurch. The choir also perform each year at a number of local care homes and events. We are always on the search for opportunities whilst also considering the cost and time implications.
<b>Why do we have to pay for a residential trip with little or no information?</b>	We are very mindful that most families appreciate early notification of a school residential in order to spread payments out across the course of the year. We always share the website details of both Minstead (Year 3/4 residential) and PGL (Year 5 residential). The more detailed information evenings are hosted nearer to the trip as we are often made aware of more specific arrangements by the trip providers closer to our arrival date. We would like to remind all parents that if anyone needs a more detailed conversation regarding particular needs, such as accessibility, allergies or anxieties in the lead up to a residential, then it is best to make an appointment with your child's class teacher.
<b>Why do the school host PATCH fundraising events during the school day?</b>	<p>Team Patch are our school volunteers who work extremely hard to raise funds in order to improve our school. Their brief is fairly simple yet pivotal to our school vision 'living life in all its fullness' - raise funds in order to enrich our school beyond the curriculum for all.</p> <p>In the last two years, Team Patch have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● paid for all pupils to watch the school pantomime free of charge</li> <li>● provided leavers' hoodies to all year 6 pupils free of charge</li> <li>● donated £100 to each class teacher to enrich their classroom with additional extras requested by the children, e.g wet play games, new hamster toys, etc.</li> <li>● paid for all children to enjoy a visit from the Christmas reindeers</li> <li>● provided welcome bags for all FS parents</li> <li>● And, are currently fundraising to install new adventure play equipment</li> </ul> <p>We are extremely grateful for the drive of our Team Patch whose overarching aim is to enrich the school experience for all pupils. We will review fundraising events throughout the year and look for opportunities to run them with minimal impact on those children who do not partake. However, we are also mindful that our volunteers give up their free time to organise and run these events when they can.</p>
<b>Can you put a list of school acronyms on the website?</b>	We recognise that there are a number of acronyms that many schools use which may cause some confusion. These include: STEP ARE GDS

	<p>We will look into collating a list of these and providing a list of definitions on our website in the future. In the meantime, if you are ever unsure of a school acronym, please ask either your class teacher, TA or the office.</p>
<p><b>How long do children get to eat their lunch?</b></p>	<p>Children will always have as long as they need to eat their lunch. We have a very comprehensive system for lunchtimes with known adults working in all packed lunch classrooms. Most children will finish their lunch during the first thirty minutes. However, should a child ever need longer, we can always make plans to accommodate this.</p>
<p><b>Some children have a lot more colours than others</b></p>	<p>All children are able to achieve colours, irrespective of ability. We pride ourselves on the fact that children, including those with SEND or those working at Greater Depth, have an equal chance of being able to earn a colour. We would never want a child to feel that an award was completely without reach and if we only awarded colours on attainment, there would be some children who would be deprived of the opportunity to earn any colours. Therefore, it is very much a conscious decision to award our colours based on either effort or attainment or both. This has always been our inclusive approach to ensure all children build self-esteem and are recognised for their achievements whilst at Hordle CE Primary School.</p> <p>Please note, there are a wide range of colours, listed below, that you can support your child in achieving.</p> <p><b>Lexicon Award</b> - details on how to achieve this award for your child's year group can be found on the website <a href="#">HERE</a></p> <p><b>Activity Passport Colours</b> - These have already been sent out for the year and are expected to take about a year to complete. We award these annually in September for the previous year. If you can't find your original - they can be found <a href="#">HERE</a></p> <p><b>Community</b> - Awarded for making a positive contribution to our community. When children have done something wonderful outside of school for their community - we warmly invite parents to share photos and tell us about them. E.g. raising money for charity, doing a litter pick etc.</p> <p><b>Times Tables</b> - For enabling your child to learn all their times tables (Year 4) within 6 seconds to answer. We recommend using your child's Times Tables Rock Stars account to help with this.</p> <p><b>HSA (Out of School Sport) Awards</b> - By keeping Coach Dobson informed of any out of school clubs / achievements, parents can help to ensure that we award the correct colours at the end of the year.</p> <p>Children can achieve an award more than once and will be awarded HORDLE STARS to reflect this. E.g. raising money for charity more than once.</p>
<p><b>Is the school aware of the number of families parking on the yellow zigzags?</b></p>	<p>The school has been informed by both parents and wider members of the community that a number of parents are breaching the Highway Code by using the zigzags as both a drop off and parking area. Historically, school staff have encountered unacceptable levels of abuse when addressing this and we have therefore passed this information on to the local PSCO. We would actively encourage any concerned parents to pass on the number plates of those concerned to the local PSCO who will be supporting us with this matter.</p>

<b>What does the school do for children with severe food allergies on those very rare occasions when food may be provided, e.g. ice-lolly Friday?</b>	We would recommend that any parents who have concerns about their child's allergies make an appointment to meet with the class teacher. In this meeting, we will be able to come up with a suitable plan which is specific to the needs of your child in order to make sure they feel actively included and have their needs met.
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