

## St Andrew's Parent Partnership Questions July 2016

Action points from our last meeting:

Year 3 - opportunity for parents to taste school dinners? We have discussed this with our cook Rebecca, who is happy to do so but this has to be authorised by Barnet Catering. Earlier this term, Barnet Catering went into collaboration with ISS Catering and so there is a little delay while we await a response from all parties. We hope to be able to offer this in the Autumn term.

Year 3 - revision of school uniform? This item was taken to the Pupil Wellbeing Governors Committee and then onto the Full Governing Body meeting. Following much discussion, the governors have agreed to make adjustments. While we understand that some items may have been purchased, there will be some phasing in/out of some items. Please see attached new uniform list.

### **Reception**

No questions were submitted in time for the meeting.

### **Year 1**

1. *Can you put forward my concerns re sports day. I think the school need to be more flexible or book the cricket club. Last week was fine to have had it. Even if they said to parents we may have to just do it at short notice if weather is nice. I don't see any other schools cancelling their sports day.*

The cricket club give the school the use of their facilities free for one afternoon only. It is more appropriate to have the younger children near school. The cricket club do not have any indoor facilities so will also only let us use their green if it is safe to do so.

When there has been a lot of rain the ground is slippery to run on and too damp to sit on. It is always extremely difficult to predict the weather in advance and the decision to hold the event is based on other additional factors including appropriate levels of staff and first aid cover.

Working parents find it problematic to make changes if we do not provide enough notice.

2. *Also can we re-confirm if plain polos are OK. I see many children wearing them as well as black Nike trainers! Seems a bit unfair for those of us who are sticking to the rules and paying £14 per polo.*

No, plain polo-shirts are not school uniform. We continually remind parents of this, and other non-uniform items which we see pupils wearing. Please see the attached uniform list for September 2016.

3. *It's really good to see Ms Devine and Mrs Bonfield in the playground in the morning and after school, but they are always at the Junior doors! Please come and visit us at the Year One door sometimes!*

Look out for us keeping this new school year resolution!

4. *Is the format of the 'English' homework set in stone? While I appreciate that the homework has a creative element to tie in with the Topic, and to appeal to all the kids, most of the options are not do-able for my Year One without a lot of input. They often take quite a lot of preparation time (getting creative materials together) and require research in books or online, which I have to do on my child's behalf. Is there any alternative for more structured worksheets (like their Maths sheets), allowing for some creativity, eg story/sentence writing based on that week's learning?*

Thank you for your feedback, we intend to review the content of homework for the Autumn term.

5. *The Summer Fair was lots of fun, and it was lovely to see so many St Andrew's staff there for the afternoon, looking after stalls and mingling with the parents and children. I appreciate the gesture of them giving up a precious Saturday afternoon for the school.*

Thank you for your comment, some staff were disappointed that they were unable to attend due to prior commitments. The staff always enjoy the whole school social events and appreciate the effort made by all.

**Year 2**

1. *My child finds it hard to sit down and work through his homework independently. Should homework be set at a level for the children to be able to complete by themselves? Also can the school give any tips for parents on how to support our children with homework and how to encourage the children to actually sit and complete it without too many 'homework battles'.*

Please refer to previous response to a Year one question.

2. *Why does the school always ask for proof when my child is ill. Does the school not trust me?*

The school is under significant pressure from the Local Authority to maintain and improve the school's attendance targets. We ask for additional information in certain circumstances where we foresee the Educational Welfare officer will request additional information in order to have an absence authorised. When we ask for additional proof, it is to avoid parents receiving official letters from the Local Authority.

**Year 3**

No questions were submitted for the meeting.

**Year 4**

1. *There is no hand dryer in the toilets so nothing to wipe hands with. Will a new one be installed?*

A new hand dryer has been purchased to replace the broken one but unfortunately requires additional electrical wiring which will take place during the summer holidays.

2. *Are there other or extra rules or expectations we should be aware of for year 5?*

Expectations to the children were discussed during their Meet the Teacher session last week. There will be a Meet the Teacher evening for parents in the first few weeks of term for all classes. (Date to be confirmed)

**Year 5**

No questions were submitted for the meeting.

**Year 6**

No questions were submitted for the meeting.