

Parent Focus Group (PFG) – November 28th @ 9.00 am – Federation House

Present:

Anthony Orlik (AO)

Deborah Lamont

Sue Sargent

Erika Beech

Razia Parveen

Zarida Kayani

Tracy Wilson – Minutes

<p>Notes from last meeting</p>	<p>Electronic Payment update – Parents will soon be able to pay by card online or via mobile phone and this will initially be for Blue Coat Plus clubs. Trips, after school clubs and uniform will follow afterwards. However will not include school meals. Further details to follow in Blue Print. All letters from school will be available on website including minutes from PFG meeting. Photographs to be updated on website. Blue Coat Plus – Club closes at 5.45pm and there has not been a demand for the club to have extended opening times. AO feels works quite well as it is. Will look at again if any future demands.</p>	<p>AO</p>
<p>Crossing Patrol</p>	<p>Following incident last week when a child was knocked down on crossing although was not at the time when there would have been crossing patrol. A letter went out to all parents regarding road safety. The child was a pupil from a different local primary school multiple injuries were sustained and the child is now recovering. Discussion about council's decision regarding crossing patrol where no replacement is being considered however this can be put forward again and AO to ask council to attend PFG to hear parents' concerns. Comments made regarding BCA students just running out across the road and also large crowds of BCA students standing around by the gully pupils/parents feel intimidated by this. AO will pass these concerns to Mr Smith.</p>	<p>AO</p>

Single use Plastic	Erika discussed use of single use plastic and suggested that parents form an “Eco group”. Blue Coat is part of a project across Walsall to reduce the use of single use plastic. School council pupils have also been asked to get involved and come up with ideas on how schools can become single use plastic.	
Severe weather conditions	Comments on bad weather and parents phoning in to ask that children are not outside in bad weather. Children do still go outside during break times and lunchtimes and was stressed how important it is that children come to school with the appropriate clothing to keep them warm. Children do not get sick by being out in cold weather. Blue Coat Junior school have also introduced the use of the mini bus when the weather is bad to transport the children to the swimming baths.	
Lost Property	All lost property is put in the lost property box. Dates will be published in Blue Print for when lost property will be available to look at on the playground. We strongly recommend that all clothing is labelled with your child’s name.	AO
Year 6 Sexual Education topic	Some parent’s felt a lot of confusion around topic and lots of conversations between pupils – Teachers do explain when letters go out to parents and that they have the option to withdraw their child if they do not wish them participate in the lesson. Also focuses around teaching pupils understanding of appropriate relationships. Parents were happy with the PANTS campaign which is done across both schools.	
Local Mosques Walsall	AO would like to strengthen links with Mosques Blue Coat families attend. Some Mosques mentioned were Aisha, Ghausia, Birchill’s and Darlaston Mosques.	
Opening of school gates	Parent reported that only top gate is open at Junior school in morning. AO said that he would review system and consider if bottom gate can be opened in the morning. Pupils can also walk into school in the mornings from the playground and do not have to line which encourages pupils to take responsibility by not having to line up. Pupils still line up at break time and lunch time.	
Pupils kept in break times	Concerns that pupils are uncertain why they are being kept in are not being communicated with the pupils. Pupils are asked to finish tasks which have been set. AO will speak to staff and to state that clear reasons must be given to pupils. Not school policy to punish children.	AO

Homework Books	There will be a review of homework and new ideas will be in place in January. Planners are also meant to be used by pupils/parents and not for parents to leave messages in planners. If any concerns teachers are available to speak to.	
Project work	Projects are half termly and pupils are encouraged to do project work however it is up to families how much they get involved. Projects are about providing opportunities for families who wish to participate also for the pupils to be creative and not for anyone to get upset about doing their project work. Expectation of the school is for pupils to have a go and never for anyone to get upset or to create pressure.	