

Coffee and Conversation Summary

Friday 18th June 2021

Present: Mrs Burnham, Mrs Boyd, Mrs Spencer, Mrs Melton

Email feedback received from a number of parents on the questions raised; no further questions

1) RSE Feedback

Feedback from teachers is that children have engaged well with the Ten Ten Resources and the weekly sessions are working well for the children. (More information [here](#).) Some of the materials e.g. cyber bullying and privates are being taught a little earlier than previously, but this is in line with children's life experiences these days and children are ready to discuss the material raised.

No concerns were raised by parents present or by email and the general feeling was that all are very happy with the new provision.

2) Parent Consultations

Feedback both from emails received and from parents present is that there is a strong preference for face to face consultations. Parents with children at secondary discussed that secondary parent consultations work well online, but at primary, the feeling was that it is extremely useful to see the children's books and discuss their progress face to face. The relationship between primary parents and teachers was noted to be quite different to that at secondary.

Mrs Burnham expressed that teachers also prefer face to face consultations as they value the relationship with parents which is much stronger through face to face contact. This year has been challenging for both staff and parents in that respect. Teachers also feel that it is important for parents to be able to see their children's work.

There was a discussion around possible demand for SchoolCloud from working parents – although this wasn't raised either by email or by parents in the meeting. Mrs Burnham explained that there is a hefty subscription cost for School Cloud which school has been happy to find in the budget during the pandemic, but that this would not be sustainable to meet the needs of only a few parents in the longer term. Parents present noted that the previous arrangements, with one earlier and one later afternoon/evening option provided a great deal of flexibility. It was felt that there is also more flexible working at present, which means that working parents are likely to be able to adjust their weekly schedule to attend in person.

It was agreed to plan for a return to face to face consultations in the Autumn Term, guidance permitting.

3) End of Term events including Sports Days

Mrs Burnham explained that Sports Day will go ahead for the children as usual on 9th July. Children will compete in year group bubbles to limit the risk of transmission. In terms of parental attendance

at events, the guidance is very tight and consultation with other schools, both locally and within Xavier, makes it clear that all schools are being very cautious to stick to the DfE guidance. No local primary school has advised that they are inviting parents onsite for sports day. Mrs Burnham explained that she would be quite keen to have parents onsite, but that it significantly raises the risk of transmission and that the priority for our school is to try to keep all children in school and learning until the end of term. Parents present were aware that there are a number of local schools who have had to shut bubbles due to COVID cases. It was felt that the most important things are that children have an opportunity to compete in Sports Day at school and that we don't do anything to risk children having to self-isolate for ten days at home in the final few weeks of the Summer Term. Mrs Burnham advised that she is meeting again with other heads later today to discuss the practicalities but is not hopeful that it will be possible to invite parents.

Mrs Burnham explained that the hoped-for Open Afternoons for each year group would not now go ahead as it will not be possible to have significant numbers of parents indoors as intended. Opportunities to view the new hall and IT Suite will be postponed until the Autumn Term, possibly at Partners In Learning in September. In response to a parent question, Mrs Burnham shared that Bishop Richard is due to visit Cardinal Newman on 14th October 2021 to bless the new hall, to join children at an assembly and to meet donors to the Hall Extension Fund. It is hoped that at least one of these occasions will be able to go ahead.

Move-up days will happen as usual for children who are already in school but children will be asked to keep a distance from the staff in their new class where possible, to prevent any risk of cross-bubble transmission. Staff will be vigilant with regard to cleaning routines, hand washing and minimising risk.

Year 6 Leavers events and End of Year Mass are scheduled to take place on or after the 19th July. Mrs Burnham discussed that a number of schools have already taken the decision to make the end of year events virtual, but that all staff at Cardinal Newman are keen to enable these to go ahead in person if we possibly can. Parents are advised that we are hoping for face to face events, but planning for contingency in the event that the Y6 Leavers Production and other end of year activities have to go ahead via Zoom. The week of 19th July is already very busy in the school calendar and it will not be possible to postpone any further events until the end of the restrictions unfortunately.

AOB:

Will there be landscaping for the front of the school, now that the builders have left?

Mrs Burnham advised that the builders have levelled the grass area at the front and seeded the area – today's rain will probably help this to get a good start! There will also be grass in the kerbs around the hall. The planted bed which had to be removed to allow lorry access is not being replaced in the short term due to lack of budget! The plants are still thriving – beside the first planted bed – and it is hoped that there might be capacity to transplant these in late winter or early spring 2022. Parents noted the new signage and new fencing which had been replaced during the half-term break.

Next Meeting – Friday 24th September at 8:50am immediately after drop off. All are welcome. Guidance permitting, this will be face to face in school with an option to join via Zoom.