

Coffee and Conversation – Wednesday 29th September 8:45am

Two questions received ahead of time from parents:

- 1) When will curriculum overviews and other information be uploaded to the school website?**

The school website is being redeveloped, with sign-off due this week and the new website launched before the end of term.

At the moment, curriculum overviews for each year group can be found on the website under Curriculum and Year Groups here:

<https://www.cardinal-newman.surrey.sch.uk/page/?title=Year+Groups&pid=306>

There is information about the coverage of subjects as well as the presentations from the Partners In Learning events. Parents present asked whether handouts from the evening could be made available online. Mrs Burnham agreed to investigate.

Action: Class teachers to send home any necessary reading lists / resources to children whose parents were not present, if they haven't already done so.

- 2) I understand that some children are finding it difficult to finish their lunch in the time permitted and that KS2 do not have the opportunity to mix fully in the playground. Is this due to specific DfE guidance the school has received? The letter at the beginning of the year had previously indicated that the school would be reverting to normal practice.**

In Key Stage 2, children go out to play before their lunchtime in some year groups. At the beginning of term, they have been kept together as a year group until they are called in for lunch, so that no-one misses the bell and fails to come in from the field. After lunch, children are free to mix freely. However, school staff have noted that the children have got so used to playing in their "bubbles" that they tend not to seek out children from other year groups. It is expected that the situation will resolve itself as children adapt themselves back to their previous freedoms and school staff will consider how best to encourage them in this.

Two topics raised for discussion by Mrs Burnham

- 1) Partners in Learning / Parent Consultations / Covid Guidance**

Parent feedback was requested with regard to the Partners in Learning event and other recent events open to parents in school. Parents present did not raise any concerns with regard to numbers of people present or capacity for social distancing / mask wearing etc.

With regard to October Parent Consultations, Mrs Burnham referred to the June 2021 summary notes for Coffee and Conversation which stated that if guidance permits, parents would prefer to have parent consultations face to face. Mrs Burnham asked parents present to share their views about face to face consultations in the coming weeks.

All parents present agreed unanimously that face to face was a better option at Primary level, to enable parents to meet teachers and discuss with them more openly, as well as having the opportunity to look at books. Mrs Burnham explained to new parents that the consultations normally take place in the hall for a ten minute slot for each teacher and that the books are made

available to look at before or after the consultation slot. Parents agreed that this would work again this year, subject to national guidance permitting.

With regard to national guidance, Mrs Burnham made parents aware that there may in future be a necessity to put in place additional COVID measures if there were to be an outbreak in school. She undertook to publish further details in the newsletter this week. Parents asked whether this meant there could once more be remote learning put in place. Mrs Burnham felt that this was unlikely, but it may be necessary for example to limit visitors to school, to quarantine individual classes within the school at lunchtimes or to cancel trips. Mrs Burnham explained that the school is currently unaffected by Covid cases, but other local schools have been hit and it remains a possibility.

Action: Mrs Burnham to share with parents a contingency plan (Outbreak Management Plan – [link here](#))

2) Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Parent feedback / ideas were requested with regard to what further the school could do to on this topic. Mrs Burnham shared that staff have upcoming training in this area and that the school will be celebrating Black History Month in October.

Ideas from parents included:

Appoint more male teachers – Mrs Burnham explained that currently the school has four male teachers (Mr Flower, Mr Joice, Mr Carter and Mr Doe) and one male trainee teacher (Mr Mulvany) which is relatively a high ratio in a Primary school setting. The school is always keen to appoint more male teachers where there is the opportunity to do so, in order to give the children a range of different adults in school.

Appoint more black / brown teachers as role models – Mrs Burnham agreed that this would be highly desirable. At the last teacher recruitment round, the suitable applications were exclusively white. Mrs Burnham queried whether there were other ways of recruiting – the school usually advertises on e-teach, as well as in the local community (majority white) through the parish and school newsletters and those of other Xavier schools (in some cases). A parent suggested that amending the interview panel to include those from minority backgrounds might be helpful, though this would not encourage further applications in the first place.

Consider more outside speakers now that the school is opening up again – perhaps role models who can add to the diversity of the children's experiences. Ideas were sought from parents on this topic.

Other questions raised during the meeting included:

Do Reception have PE outside?

Mrs Burnham explained that all classes have at least one outside PE lesson a week and some will have two at different times of the year. Children also complete their "Daily Run" outdoors each day.

What does the school do about catechesis for Y5/Y6?

Mrs Burnham explained that all classes, from YR upwards are encouraged to "wonder" and ask questions which they would like to understand more about. The older year groups have the opportunity to meet visiting speakers including from the parishes to support their understanding of their faith and to help them to understand their faith in relation to the society around them. Parents present felt that this is something Cardinal Newman does well and that this good work is continued

very well when the children progress to Salesians also. It was recognised that open conversation with parents at home also supports children's catechesis in their faith.

Can the school do anything to raise children's awareness about addiction, especially with regard to digital addiction?

Mrs Burnham recognised the importance of this topic for our pupils. It is covered in Flourish sessions (see overviews on website [here](#)) in an age-appropriate way and also included in e-safety sessions in Computing lessons. Bi-annually, the Parent Association pays for the services of Sharon Girling, who is a former police officer, working in online protection and is an Online Safety Ambassador. She works with classes, staff and parents.

Will there be a Christmas Fair from the PA this year?

Mrs Burnham said that there are plans afoot, to include an outdoor component, to give ourselves the best chance of success. Details will be shared by the PA nearer the time, when the guidance is clear.

Please could the Parent Prayer Group continue?

Mrs Burnham would be delighted for the Parent Prayer Group to continue, using the Chapel on a Friday morning after drop off. Mrs Chijiutomi undertook to lead the prayer group and she explained to new parents that the group had previously met to pray for the children of Cardinal Newman School and to pray for any intentions parents might have. Parents who were not present were able to share their intentions for prayer if they wanted to. Parents present felt this would be a good idea.

Action: Mrs Chijiutomi to let Mrs Burnham know the details for the newsletter.

Next Coffee and Conversation planned for Wednesday 19th January at 8:45am