Notes from Parent Forum meeting

	Attendees: Rachel Rowe, Mary Nethersole Veronica - Y6, Angela - Y5, Lauren - Y1 & Y4 Ruth - Y2, 3 & 5, Lucy - Y2, Stefania – YR & Nursery Apologies Kerry Y3
Parent questions	**Discussion and enquiries made**
Eating lunch Children have mentioned about being rushed to eat their lunch as well as some children not eating much from their packed lunch.	It was discussed that children may be rushing because: They want to get outside quickly to play They want to leave at the same time as their friends. On investigation it is reported that lots of chatting is taking place instead of focusing on eating. The dining room staff are going to monitor how much time children have to eat their lunch and also encourage children to eat and spend time chatting outside. Packed lunches will be checked to see how much they have eaten. Some children have a large amount of food in their packed lunches and parents need to check if they are giving their children too much. Some children have milk and toast during mid-morning break which could result in them not being as hungry by lunchtime.
Football at lunchtimes Please explain the system for football at lunchtimes	The new lunchtime football plan has been a success so far. Rachel talked to the children at the celebration assembly and those who wanted to play football had to stay behind for a little while to talk about the rules and what is expected of them. Children have to sign up to play football and this has led to the children being committed to playing, they play 3 times a week, have a member of staff refereeing the game, the girls and boys play separately (their choice) except year 6 who like to play together. Adults help to sort out who is on which team and there is no fall out from the games any more. It has been mostly Y4-Y6 but younger year groups are joining in. There is a sign up sheet on the sports board and the younger years have now been told where this is. There have been lots of children who have started to sign up who wouldn't usually play football. The whole thing has been really successful.
PE kit Overall parents are very happy with the new plan of children (years 4 - 6) wearing their PE kit on days that they have PE. Parents are however, not very happy with the actual PE tops as they stain very easily.	Wearing PE kits to school has been implemented as there are not enough staff or spaces to separate the children for changing, so this has worked well. Apologies were given for the delay in telling parents about this change. It saves the children having to remember to bring in PE kits, along with hopefully cutting down on the need to buy extra trainers for school.

	This will likely be rolled out to other year groups, it will help the younger years make the most of PE as they will get the whole hour rather than maybe just 30 mins as the rest of the time could be taken up with getting changed. Suggestions to save the PE tops from extra staining - new darker coloured t-shirts, wearing aprons for art classes, changing into blue school t-shirt after PE. This will be looked into.
Trainers for the daily mile Could children change into their trainers before the daily mile as sometimes the field is quite muddy?	If children stay on the track then it is not too muddy. You can wear black trainers as part of the uniform Older children are very welcome to change into trainers for the daily mile (Y4-Y6) if you think that is what they need
Mornings in the Playground - soft start Parents were wondering about the soft start and when it's raining whether the children can get into the classroom earlier.	We no longer have the soft start due to new government guidelines and so school starts at 8.45am. Previous soft start was from 8.45am. The doors cannot be opened earlier for children to enter the classroom as the teachers can only be directed for a certain amount of time each week, and this would take away from staff meetings, parents evening etc. There is also the safeguarding issue that means that the register is done very quickly when all children are in the classroom so ensures a clear time from handover from parents to school staff. If parents need to take drop their children at school earlier so they can get to work then there is the option of breakfast club which does have spaces.
School Performances - PA fundraising A question was raised about whether we could have a class performance in the evening so the PA could sell refreshments and make some money for the school.	We generally have performances to suit the children and evening ones are not the best as children are too tired. A singing assembly has been arranged for Y5&Y6 in the last week of term. Parents from Y5&6 have been invited. There will be refreshments after the performance.
Boys Toilets - Yr4-6 area One tap is leaking and the boys are getting soaked or worried about taking too long in the toilet and getting in trouble. There is quite often no soap left in the dispenser.	The tap being broken will be looked in to. There is always soap/washing facilities in the classroom so they can wash hands there, but should make staff aware of the lack of soap in the toilet. There will not be a mirror going up in the toilet.

Mobile Phones	Children are not allowed mobiles at school and if they do bring in due to them walking on their own to school then they should be handed into the office. We discussed how staff and parents can make sure mobiles are used safely. - Mobiles are handed to the office on arrival at school. - Staff are vigilant on the playground before school to ensure children do not film/photograph each other. - A permission form should be sent to parents so they understand school rules on mobiles too - We do not want to encourage mobiles in school and parents should lead by example on this. - Stricter sanctions for misuse of mobiles or not handing them into the office - confiscation etc. It is a serious matter and will be treated as such - Phone are safe in the office, they are locked and put away for the day - School cannot take responsibility for any phones not handed in or for phones used before and after school School will look into having a new permission form that children and parents sign so everyone understands the rules and abides by them.
Leavers Hoodies Leavers hoodies are initiated by parents and parent led but school has a rule for not giving out the hoodies until they go into the school journey (July). Would the school consider changing this rule so that children can get more wear out of the hoodies - this comes up every year, hoodies are expensive and everyone wants to make the most of them.	Suggestions were that we could buy t-shirts instead of hoodies to keep costs down, or maybe having less writing on the hoodies so they can be worn for longer. SLT will look into these suggestions
School Clubs/Holiday Clubs Reception parents would like more choice of after school activities for their children -	This will come in January as it is important they have the first term to settle into school life, but from January there will be dance and multi sports. Apex runs holiday clubs at Herts Sports Village. Camp has a tech club and has had a drama club in the past that have run in the school.
Communication	In future parents volunteer contributions for cooking and craft will only be paid on Arbor.

There was lots of confusion over the £5 donation for arts and crafts/cooking and some parents may have paid twice for this as an envelope went home for cash donations and it was possible to pay on Arbor. When paying on Arbor for crafts/cooking the payment is found under trips - which was slightly confusing.	If there were a school trip you would get a separate letter regarding the trip with all details on it. Dates for the term are on the newsletters sent out as well as on the website. So please make sure you take note of those dates.
Arbor It would be great to have provision to pay as much as you like for the Y6 trip so that one month you could pay more and one less or indeed pay for the whole thing at once should that suit.	This should be possible and will be looked into but feel free to speak to the office should you have any concerns over this.

AOB:

Welcome to Stefania (Alessandro and Lorenzo's Mum) who is our new representative for YN/YR

NEXT MEETING

Thursday 21st November 6.30pm