

Educational Services

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Our Ref:

Date: 19/1/17

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Communication

As a school we have worked very hard to ensure communication is a strength and we try to keep you informed about what is happening in the school at all times. This obviously though is within the constraints of data protection, national information sharing policy and child protection guidelines.

A parent has kindly brought to my attention a recent concern about poor communication and this is really helpful to know. My apologies for this and I will endeavour to make sure this is rectified. The school has undergone a lot of changes over the last month which has required a lot of my time in classes and with pupils. I am also meeting with new staff and helping them get settled into our systems plus on top of that we have been covering classes due to absences and no supply staff.

I can assure you I will ensure communication is a top priority and pass on information in the Friday bulletin as the first line of communication unless it requires a more specific letter. I will though keep in mind comments from parents that they do not like constant letters coming home and keep it manageable for parents.

Dolphin House was discussed recently at our Parent Council meeting and the minutes for this are always put on the school website and can be emailed out to you. The Parent Council is the platform we use to discuss any changes for the school as we can't always consult every parent about every decision we make. This would not be a valuable use of my time and often does not provide a clear answer. These meetings are a really good way of keeping informed about the school and the minutes available are very detailed.

Mrs Brearley as our Dolphin House expert has fed back to the Parent Council that over the last 2 years the accommodation standards and experiences the children now have are not what we would hope for. It is an expensive trip so we have to look at the value for money aspect and also what the children gain from their visit. We also felt that a lot of our P6 pupils were quite young to be going away on such a long trip and it has been a big responsibility for a teacher to take them away. We have looked at financial costs and the 2 trips (P6 & P7) added together can be very expensive. If we are asking for such a large financial outlay the experiences need to merit that and currently we don't feel they do.

We considered what alternatives were available and are very impressed with the brand new Inverclyde development and feel sending our P7s early on in the year for a week as a team building event and to help them build their confidence in being able to run the school would be the best option. This will be a more costly trip but could now be paid up over 2 years to make this more inclusive for all.

I hope this clarifies the situation and I will work on bringing communication back up to the standard expected of the school. Miss McBean is looking to also develop our Twitter account to be much more interactive which will hopefully also help.

If you have any suggestions I would be happy to meet with you to discuss them.

Mrs Houston.