

Parental feedback ahead of the Parent Forum meeting 14.03.2025

Y1, Y2, Y4 and Y5 representatives present

Feedback compiled and sent in writing by the Y3, Y6.

No feedback from Reception.

Positive feedback

The auto reply on the school office email system is appreciated. Please express my thanks to the school team for adding this.

Communications

- Feedback on the recent communications policy LINK

here: [https://www.bishopperrin.richmond.sch.uk/ckfinder/userfiles/files/Communications%20Policy%20-%20February%202025\(3\).pdf](https://www.bishopperrin.richmond.sch.uk/ckfinder/userfiles/files/Communications%20Policy%20-%20February%202025(3).pdf)

- Communication for events can feel short notice and come from different sources – can you utilize the platform we use for school trip payments, or expand the website to have a page for each class info; It would be good to have dates/events in one place: *Following feedback in a previous forum the school now try to put all events in the table at the end of the newsletter. Information on school trips is not put in the school calendar for safeguarding reason (i.e. putting detail about where and when the children will be outside of school).*
- The new policy includes WhatsApp and says parents do not need to join. But the school association relies on WhatsApp; Not always clear what children need for trips or events, WhatsApp has to be used for this as parents decide together is it PE today or do we need bags for this trip etc: *The school understands this and tries to make sure all information is available in the newsletter so that if a parent did not want to be in the WhatsApp group that would be ok. Consideration will be given to sharing information about SA events in other ways. The school cannot insist that a parent join a WhatsApp group.*
- Regarding events can they be put on the school calendar beforehand and a reminder at the beginning of the term and keeping it up to date e.g. class assemblies. Could changes for uniform or PE be on a separate email for that class could be sent rather than wading through the newsletter: *The school will take this on board and try to implement.*
- Messages given to the main reception (via telephone) do not always make their way to the required person: *These are usually passed on to the teacher, who will not always pick them up that day. This sounds like a particular issue that should be discussed with the school directly.*

Smart phones

- Would welcome an explanation as to why the school feel that smart phones cannot be allowed at all on school property from Sept 25, and why it was decided without consultation
- Completely understand and agree with phones being turned off before coming into school, and remaining away in bags until out of school, but for children walking to/from school to effectively not be able to have one with them causes (i feel) a significant safeguarding risk. I'd also suggest that, unless they plan to search every child, every day, it's fairly unenforceable as a policy
Finding ways to manage Smart phone for children on the school site was discussed at the previous parent forum. The ban on smartphones from September 2025 is an operational decision. It is a supportive action acknowledging the peer pressure that exists among young people to have smart phones, this may go some way to reduce it. We have not banned all phones on the school site, just smart phones. Parents are invited to come along to the workshop 'The Anxious Generation' on the 24th April, which will give more insight into smart

phone use amongst children. The school understand some of the parents' concerns, but also feel smartphones can make children more vulnerable to be targeted on their way home.

Trips

- School trips feel quite uneven. It feels like there are some years that have more trips/better organised trips than other years. Is there a way to make this more consistent so kids aren't missing out: *Trips are usually designed to match the curriculum. Over the course of their school life children have the opportunity to attend lots of different trips. Where we are able, we aim to keep the same trips each year, to ensure fairness and opportunities to all.*
- The scopay information doesn't tell you what you need on a trip either: *The amount of information that can be on scopay is limited. There is some information on the permission form. The school will add a note to scopay to remind parents that full trip information will be in the newsletter.*
- Isle of Wight trip: expensive and then raised at short notice; no reminders were sent so some parents that hadn't made a note of when payments were due ended up paying a large amount in 1 go; Could some transparency on what the costs breakdown actually is? Would some exploration of other cheaper trips be possible - does it have to be the Isle of Wight? *The Isle of Wight trip is put together by an external company that organise trips. They book the accommodation, travel and activities on our behalf. This planned in advance but prices change and unfortunately this is out of the schools control. The school will try to send reminders for each payment. This point about cost has been raised in the forum last year and the school ran a survey to find out how parents felt about different (cheaper) options. The survey had few responses and those who did complete it were happy with the current options so the school have continued with these for now.*

Clubs

- If outside clubs are cancelled due to bad weather can the sports hall be used and koosa automatically use the Creative arts room? *Koosa's contract includes the hall and the CAR, these have been risk assessed. Classrooms cannot be used by Koosa without significant notice. It is often not possible for Koosa to use the CAR, which is too small. If outside clubs are moved to classrooms due to weather, they should be offering an activity linked to the club i.e Football quiz etc. if that's not happening then the school will report back to the external provider.*
- More notice with club timetables would be better for parents so they can plan with work ect. *Following similar feedback last year the school were able to make the list available at the end of term (rather than beginning of the next term). The school will try their best to continue this process of giving details about clubs earlier however this is impacted on the notice that club providers are able to give us. We need to put all of our club information out all in one go so if their notice to us is late, it will impact on the notice the school is able to give.*
- Will dance club return? Can we please have more creative clubs: *Dance club was offered by an external provider who has decided not to continue this due to low numbers.*
- Why is violin tuition not offered at the school?: *Interest in leaning an instrument can be raised by contacting Richmond Music Trust (RMT). If enough parents request lessons for a particular instrument RMT may consider offering lessons in the school.*

World Book Day

- Why is the list of books so more restricted than previously and why such a short time to read them; Could a list of books be given out before Christmas? Some more info (blurb) as well as the book covers to be shared – especially for the older children: *Focusing on the recommended books brings the WBD activities back to reading rather than being just about dressing up. The school will try to share the list earlier next year and share some burb.*
- Is there any way to do the events such as red nose day without making things at home world book day lovely added extra but it's extra work and expenses for children who want to go all out for chosen books (most have their fav books props already) *The school will take this into account*

Christmas events

- Feedback on arrangements for Christmas events, celebrations and activities in school. Is there too much going on or is this about right?

- Parents commented that Christmas events are fine as long as dates come in advance. Also comments that it was nice that the children got to go to a panto
- Can Christmas dinner be opt out rather than opt in please? *Miss Macklearn to look into - there will be changes next year*

Other

- Can children have wider friendships outside of year groups e.g. at playtime: *Children often play with those in other classes at break time. It may only be discouraged if there is a particular reason for doing so, which will be explained to the children at the time.*
- Somewhere in the newsletter or online could there be a page where school can ask for things for parents to donate: *This will be added to the newsletter at the end of each term.*
- Full mufti days please, the red/pink accessory was difficult for those who don't have red/pink clothes: *The red/pink mufti was for valentines. The school will consider this feedback for next year.*
- It'd be nice to get some feedback on swimming progress: *Feedback on swimming will come when it has finished next week and is fed back in end-of-term reports.*
- I would be interested to hear more about behaviour management and staying in at break time for infants, and how is it feedback to parents? *This is described in the behaviour policy*
- The lack of a consistent and full time PE teacher is causing concerns with some of the parents and pupils - *Mr O'Connell is our PE coach, who teaches one day a week, this arrangement will be consistent for the class the duration of a term. It may change from term to term, to allow all classes to be taught by the PE coach at least once over the course of the year. The other PE lesson will be taught by the class teacher, which is standard practice for a primary school. A full-time PE teacher is not and has never been an option for Bishop Perrin School.*

SA events

Would like to understand what the issue is with the events like movie night, disco etc where the children could be dropped back and school for an event and didn't need parents to be present. The events now need parents to be there – some understanding of what changed would be appreciated.

The need to stop running SA events is due to safe-guarding. This was explained at the recent AGM – AGM minutes. For children to be dropped off at an event under the supervision of volunteers would require all volunteers running the event to be recruited following safe recruitment methods (e.g. pre-employment checks, verification of identity, etc.), all be DBS checked, trained in safeguarding, etc. In order to be inclusive, all volunteers would need to be prepared to manage potentially challenging incidences of behaviour and manage any accidents, etc. that may occur - this is a big responsibility and a lot to ask of volunteers for one or two occasions. The other option would be for the event to run entirely by school staff and the school's safeguarding procedures be followed, however this is an unreasonable ask of staff's free time and it would not be fair to ask them to work these extra hours for free or spend this time away from their own families. The new model is a compromise that still enables these events to take place, but the responsibility for the child remains with the parent.

- SA Events: I wholly support these and think they are good for the children but the days/times (especially for the Christmas fayre) are completely inconvenient for working parents. If they are going to send polls out to gauge interest, listen to the results. There were very few votes for a weekend movie night, yet they continued with it and had to cancel the infant movie night due to lack of ticket sales

The Christmas market felt quite chaotic and year 6 seemed to get the end of choice due to the last (and quite strict) time slot

The school will pass feedback about SA events to the SA committee.

Next meeting: Friday 13/06/2025