



**Exbourne: Encouraging Excellence**  
**'Let us spur one another to acts of love and good deeds.' Hebrews 10:24**

## **Parent Forum - 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2024**

### **1 Welcome and Introductions**

Tara Penny, Principal welcomed all. More than a third of families represented – thank you for coming!

### **2 Our Trust Three Main Aims**

Tara explained the three aims of the Trust for the year ahead. All staff are working toward these broad aims in very specific ways.

Raise attainment - All children prepared for the next year of education with the skills and knowledge they need

Eradicate gaps - Equitable provision and outcomes for our most underserved young people

Drive belonging - All young people, staff, and communities feel connected, heard and valued

### **3 Analysis**

Some specifics we are focusing on at Exbourne to achieve these three broad aims which you can support at home:

- Handwriting
- Spelling
- Number bonds
- Times tables
- Presentation

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Parents discussed challenges to completing homework at home, and asked for a space at school to do this.

#### **4 Attendance**

Attendance at Exbourne is very good. We monitor attendance and compare with other schools in the Trust, and nationally. We have a healthy competition between the classes (it's so close!) we also monitor groups of pupils by demographic including SEND as nationally, these pupils tend to miss more school than others. We will support individual children and families where attendance is becoming a concern. Our motto is "If they are well enough, send them in!" We will always send children home if we are worried.

#### **5 Ethos and Belonging**

As a church school, our aim is to embed our Christian ethos which demonstrates an inclusive culture in all aspects of school life including approaches to behaviour and relationships.

Our behaviour rules always come under the umbrella terms of being Ready, Respectful and Safe. | This can be easily used at home to explain rules and encourage positive behaviour. We use relational approaches and restorative solutions.

In lessons, worship and our daily conversations, we embed our values respect, thankfulness, perseverance, courage, compassion and forgiveness. We refer to all throughout the year, but specifically focus on one each half term.

#### **6 Parents and Community**

We plan to have a range of opportunities, at different times, for parents and local community to interact with school

- Class meetings
- Workshops
- Celebration of learning
- Events
- Fundraising
- School Forum

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Parents are keen to have a celebration of learning three times a year, and liked it being added on to the Harvest Festival. Laura spoke of the upcoming PFA quiz (venue to be confirmed) funding for enrichment of the curriculum, and plans for a special visitor this Christmas!

## 7 Parent Voice

How are we doing regarding the areas we raised in the last parent Forum?

- Exbourne 'first choice for local families'  
Parents suggested more collaboration with the pre school and leafleting the local areas.
- Communication  
Parents said more reminders would be helpful – for example recent meeting about school residentials we only communicated once. Can we utilise the Facebook closed group for reminders as well as sending email?  
Facebook and Tapestry are well received for celebration of learning

## 8 Thoughts, Ideas, Questions

Parents at the meeting could not access Arbor!

Discussed possible venues for the upcoming quiz

### Actions

- Provide a homework space for parents to use after school
- Keep communicating using Tapestry (for Reception class) Facebook for celebrations, and the closed group and email for information and especially reminders.
- Learning Celebrations every term!
- Investigate why Arbor is not working for (some / all) parents
- Build links with Pre School throughout the year.

We will be addressing these as a school team.

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