



Edlington Victoria Academy Parents Forum

Date and time: 23.10.20 9.15am – 10.00am

Present: Mrs Clark (Principal), Mrs Adams (Vice Principal) Mrs Dyer (Business Manager), Claire Heeley (Governor and parent), Faith Aghwaritefe (parent), John Edson (Parent), Janine Allison (Parent), Jodie Reid (Parent), Aleksandra Jarosz-Kozinska (Parent).

Apologies: none

Opening:

Mrs Clark welcomed everyone to the virtual parent forum meeting and explained she had been Principal at Edlington Victoria Academy for the past 6 years. Previous parent forum meetings took place in the academy, parents could gather in an informal setting with refreshments available. We now however find ourselves in very different times and are holding the meetings remotely.

The purpose of these meetings are:

- It is a chance to inform parents of what is happening in school and what the children's learning experiences are. Parents are asked to follow the school [Twitter](#) account as this is also a good way of keeping up to date with what is happening in school and you do not need to have an account to follow us.
- It is a chance for parents to feedback to school and also ask any questions that they may have.

It was discussed with those present that anything personal relating to their own child should not be discussed in the parent forum meeting, please contact the school office and the appropriate member of staff would be in touch to discuss their concerns.

All present in the parent forum introduced themselves.

Discussions around the following points took place.

- Vice Principal, curriculum lead and Y6 teacher Mrs Adams explained to those present the recovery curriculum and details about what our children have been doing since they returned following a long absence. The recovery curriculum is a sympathetic and supportive approach to returning children to school following a long absence and is there to help children understand Covid19, share their feelings, interact and socialise with their friends, this will allow and prepare them for focussed learning. As a trust we are using a programme called Jigsaw, this is supporting with this learning approach.
- Mrs Adams explained diagnostic assessment has been implemented, these are mini assessments which allow teachers to see where the children are and what gaps in learning need to be filled following the lost learning. They are not formal assessments.

Foundation 1 & 2

Staff in F1 and F2 have concentrated on settling the children in to a new setting, they have worked closely with the children to see what makes them happy and what makes them sad, this has been supported by the 'Who am I' book.

KS1

Staff in KS1 have worked closely with the children to overcome coming back into school and have worked with children on any worries they may have and how to deal with them, this has been supported by the 'Lion inside' book.

Lower KS2

Staff in KS2 have been following the Jigsaw programme, they have focused circle time involving the children coming back together any loss or bereavement they may have suffered and reconnecting with their friends, this has also been supported by the 'The Dot' book.

Upper KS2

Staff in KS2 have been following the Jigsaw programme, they have focused circle time around feelings. The children have enjoyed team games, calming art activities and staff embedding class expectations and how to treat each other.

Moving Forward

Mrs Adams will lead a priority group, this involves 11 curriculum subjects lead by different teachers. The curriculum will be introduced over the course of the year as children begin the more focussed learning curriculum. Unfortunately, we are unable to allow children to access learning experiences outside the school setting but we will be able to offer a variety of experiences by allowing services/professionals into school to work with the children. At the start of term feedback from parents was that they were worried that children were not learning as they should, the recovery curriculum has allowed children to prepare and adjust following the long break so they are ready for learning.

Principal response

Over the past 8 weeks all our staff have been proactive in reintegrating the children back into school, the school is calm and the children have settled well and are ready to move forward into focussed learning after half term. Has anyone got any questions they would like to ask?

Parent comment

It has been really useful and interesting to know what the children have been doing since they returned last month. Are you confident that the recovery curriculum has worked and that the children will be ready for deeper learning after half term?

Response

We have already seen signs that children are ready for deeper learning, over the past few weeks more focussed lessons in SPAG, reading, writing and numeracy have taken place and children are working hard.

Principal response

The tailored approach to each child that we have adopted will ensure any gaps in learning are filled. We have assessed all the children and although some show some gaps, these are small and we are confident these will be filled, the children are really engaged in their learning.

Principal explained our school improvement plan and 3 priorities which are the focus for this year.

- Curriculum
- Teaching Pedagogy (Reading, writing, numeracy and the consistency across the year groups)
- Pastoral and SEN focus

Parent response

It has been a really good term for my child, they have settled well and the interventions that have taken place have been tailored to their needs.

Parent response

My child has gaps in their learning but they have settled well so these will close, they are enjoying being back at school and it is good to see the photos that are on Tapestry. This is exceeding all my expectations.

Principal response

The Foundation unit is working really well, the children are calm and settled. The team are working really hard resulting in the calm atmosphere.

Parent response

As a parent of a child in year 6, I am aware they have been taking practice SATS papers, is there anything else we could be doing? Any resources that we could get that would help them to close the gap in lost learning?

Response

Year 6 is a revision year, we just re-visit and embed the learning from previous years. Closer to the time of SATS we will guide parents into additional resources needed and also booster sessions for children to attend. The current assessments are not concerning and although there are some gaps in learning I am confident we will be able to fill them.

Principal response

The assessments the year 6 children have taken so far are in line with previous years, we are not concerned that they will be on track by the end of year.

Parent response

The concerns around returning to school and learning is sometimes the anxiety of the parent and not the child, how will you deal with parent anxiety?

Principal response

Parents evenings will take place virtually. We will discuss where the children are in their learning and share their work, answer any questions and address any concerns, this will put their minds at rest.

Parent response

Have you found that some children have regressed and reverted back to childlike/baby ways? I am finding my child is displaying similar behaviour at home to what they did in F1

Principal response

This sometimes happens when they are mixing in a group after long periods of time away from the school setting, they are watching and learning until they settle back into school. All children will be monitored and interventions put into place to help them settle.

Action

Mrs Adams – Send details to year 6 parents of possible resources/websites for children to access.

Date of next meeting: To be confirmed