

# The Beacon's Parent Forum – Term 1

**Date: Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

**Focus: Arbor and The year ahead**

**Attendees:**

Alison Cole – Head of School

Angélique Pepper – Administration Assistant

Parents / Carers – 4 Attendees

## Arbor & Communication

- ✚ In app messaging has restricted characters  
**Angélique** has logged this query for further investigation
- ✚ Timetable Calendar within the app to allow parents to see a physical timetable for each pupil  
**Angélique** has logged this query for further investigation
- ✚ Where do the messages come to?  
Confirmed with parents that any messages that are sent are automatically logged against each pupil
- ✚ Teachers are finding it time consuming to read each students messages, as they have to go into each profile individually  
**Angélique** has logged this query for further investigation
- ✚ Can TA's possibly send messages, especially if they are the adult, who has spent most of the day with their child?  
Teachers currently are only able to send messages.  
Parents said that sometimes the teachers are not the adult who spends the most time with their child, it would be nice to have correspondence from those that notice the changes, rather than a generic message.  
It was also mentioned that it would be nice if the TA that had spent the day with the pupil, was the one that brought them out at the end of the school day. This would enable any relevant information to be passed on and a message not always necessary.
- ✚ We spoke about why we had decided to come away from using contact books, and how we hope that Arbor will become more convenient and usable as we all get used to it.  
**Angélique** would like to hear from any parents with feedback.
- ✚ Absence reporting – how can this be done?  
We are happy with any of the following communication; Telephone call, answer machine message, in-app message or an email to [attendance@thebeacon.kent.sch.uk](mailto:attendance@thebeacon.kent.sch.uk)

## EFL (Evidence for Learning)

- ✚ This is a program for teachers to carry out online reporting. They are able to send videos, images and updates of work being carried out all year round, rather than just parents evening.  
**Ali** to speak with **Casey Fletcher** about who has access to the program, as some parents have not had anything uploaded for over a year.  
Parents asked if maybe The Beacon could resend all relevant logins and relevant paperwork to engage with EFL.

### Interactive Learning Programs

✚ Reading Eggs

✚ Mathletics

Both Reading Eggs & Mathletics were used mainly during lockdown. We now have the program called Big Cat Phonics, **Ali** to speak with **Casey** issues with no books.

✚ Little Wandle - parents can't see any books allocated

Some classes have already allocated – we can ask parents for their feedback and follow it up with class teachers.

### Term Dates

✚ It was requested that parents could have a list of upcoming diary dates, so they are aware of events in plenty of time

### Coat Sale

✚ Perhaps we can bring forward the Coat Swap event to earlier in the term, as the weather is getting colder now.

**Casey** happy to arrange date – perhaps the second week of term? We can send out an email before the end of term to ask for donations.

Advertise on Facebook and send parent emails

### The Year Ahead

✚ Term 2 – Zones of Regulations & Use of Language. Tips & Tricks of Communication

✚ Online Safety

✚ Curriculum

✚ Bullying

✚ Mental Health

### More Parent Engagement

✚ Change of name?? Parent Voice

✚ Meeting for an hour rather than the two hours shown on Facebook (10:00-11:00am)

## Term 2 Parent Voice

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December – 10:00-11:00 am

Zones of Regulations & Use of Language