



Parents in Partnership Forum

At the end of September, Mrs Yeoman was delighted to hold Greatwood's first Parents in Partnership Forum. This was an opportunity to welcome parents into school to meet with staff and share your thoughts and ideas about different aspects of school life. It was also a chance to meet our Chair of Governors, Kelly Tempest, and the CEO of Northern Star Academies Trust, Jenn Plews.

At the Forum, we updated parents on:

- Our first few weeks in school and all of the amazing learning that has been taking place
- The different ways in which Covid 'Catch Up' funding is being used in school. Mr Finch joined us to describe to parents all the work he is doing with every class in the school. *It was very encouraging to hear parents say that there had already been a clear, positive impact from the focused work with small groups wherever this is needed to support children's learning.*
- NSAT's Environmental Sustainability Strategy: we also heard that on winning their Eco Award, Greatwood's pupils asked the Trust's CEO, Jenn Plews, for somewhere to fly their flag! Mrs Plews was really pleased to confirm that this has been found and hopefully you will see the flag waving proudly in the school grounds very soon.
- School's Safeguarding practices and processes – including the results of a 'pupil voice' activity carried out at Greatwood to ensure that safeguarding was embedded in everything we do. The feedback from our pupils was very reassuring – *100% of pupils asked said that they felt safe at school, and that they knew who they would go to if they needed help.*

As a **Partnership**, it was important for parents to share their views, too. You talked to us about:

- The response to school's request to add only water in drinking bottles – we understand it is important that this is approached consistently by staff in all year groups
- The importance of ensuring that communications are consistent and clear so that parents really can **work in partnership with school** by helping pupils to



understand their experiences. For example, you'd find this helpful so that you know how to talk to your child about something that might have happened that day, or when you might need to explain that some groups of children take part in an activity, but others might not

- How parents appreciate the positive use of **Class Dojo** by teachers and how this has become a great way to communicate with staff, and to stay in touch with what is happening during the school day
- The concerns that we all share about inappropriate parking and use of the road directly outside school. Mrs Plews assured parents that the Trust is proactively communicating with the local authority about these issues.
- ...and that some of you – including the children – appreciated using the quieter back entrance to school during Covid, and we can look at how that might be reintroduced.

Would you like to get involved?

It is our wish to have parents from all year groups represented at the Parents in Partnership Forum. We will hold meetings **once per half-term** and will work with parents to choose a time most suitable for most people.

If you'd like to get involved, get in touch with reception to find out more or ask to speak to Mrs Yeoman.

Parent Governor Elections

Greatwood's Local Governing Body has a vacancy for a parent governor. Our governors are a really important part of a school community, providing support and challenge to senior leaders and assuring themselves that the best decisions are being made towards the quality of education and standards in our school.

If you would like to know more about being a parent governor, please look out for the letter that has been circulated to all parents in the school. [You can nominate yourself to be a parent governor by filling in this online form](#) (if more than one person comes forward, we will run an election process with all parents).

If you have any questions about the role, you can get in touch with Mrs Yeoman or email: governance@nsat.org.uk