

PARENT FORUM MINUTES: WEDNESDAY 10TH JUNE 2015.



Present:

Leanne Bridgwood (Head teacher), Nikki Turner (Deputy headteacher), Laura Beech, Simon Cartlidge, Shirley Stewart-Cooney, Jane Harris, Julie Keates, Jo Marson, Liz Moreton, Freya Sangha.

Apologies:

Viki Bates, Emma Johnson, David Mermod.

1. Review of minutes.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved with no further comment.

2. Feedback for parents evening.

Parent forum members reported positive feedback for parents evening. Most felt that it had been well organized. Parents were also happy with the feedback from teachers and the progress that their children were making in the school.

3. Staff member on the gate.

Parents have commented that it would be nice to have a member of staff on the gate. LB commented that it is difficult to release another member of staff as teachers have to be in the classroom to supervise pupils. Teaching assistants are available to pass messages on to the class teachers. Miss Smith for Key stage 1 and Mrs Rogers for KS2. Parents can also send a letter to the teacher with pupils as a way of communication. As some parents are unaware of this, this information is to be passed on via the newsletter - **LB**

LB commented that from the new school year in September the homework dairies will no longer be used. They were initially introduced as a way of recording pupils work at school and to pass messages between school and home. Monitoring has highlighted that the books are not being fully utilized. LB will reassess if homework standards drop.

4. Nursery Letters

There has been some confusion over changes to dates in nursery. Not all parents are receiving text message reminders. This occurred with both dress up day and non-uniform day. Some pupils who had been off before the half term break had not been notified of the change of day from the Monday to the Tuesday for the inspiration day. This issue had been raised at the previous meeting and staff had been reminded to put aside letters for pupils off sick to be given out on their return. LB apologised to parents for the confusion and promised to speak to staff again. No other year groups reported failure to receive letters. Newsletters have also been missing. Some parents missed the homework as this was detailed on the home-link letter, which had not been noticed by some parents. **LB**

5. Facebook Page.

Parents have fed back to the forum that they feel that Facebook is a good way to access information. It is used by a lot of people. Nice to have an insight into pupil activities through the photos that have been published. LB is going to Photoshop the newsletters as another way for people to get easier access to information. The website is currently in a position where it needs to be updated. This is currently maintained by a volunteer. Future plans are in place to train an internal member of staff to manage the website, so that this can reviewed on a regular basis.

6. Open day support.

Parent forum members were asked if they would be willing to help run a stand at the forthcoming open day on the 26th June. The open day is an opportunity for parents to see the children at work. The teachers that the children will be moving onto next year will also be available that day. Emma Johnson and Liz Moreton volunteered to help. The parent forum will also try and recruit new members for the forum as there are currently a few gaps. **JM**

7. AOB.

Newspaper reports.

Parents have asked if they can be notified if their children are going to be in the press. Parents had thrown away the free newspapers not realizing that their children's photos were in. LB informed parents that the school is not always notified of any news articles that are to be published. Most reports are now completed by the school and sent to the news office. They do not notify the school as to whether or not the articles are to be published.

Think 2.

Some concerns have been raised about the cost of think 2. Parents have reported that the playgroup at Pinfold is cheaper. LB reassured parents that the think 2 provision is to be overseen by a senior leader within the school. A discount has been provided with 5 sessions a week. There will remain only two price structures to avoid complication. Updates for a September offer are still to be sent out – **LB**.

Parents also queried the days that think 2 will operate. LB confirmed that it will be open every day except for Tuesday afternoon. (**LB to check**). FS and JK suggested that if possible they could use the facility on a Tuesday afternoon to run the toddler group as this has been a successful venture on a Monday morning. **LB**

Welcome packs for parents signed up for think 2 are due to be sent out. A day will be around to invite parents into think 2 to discuss policies and information about think 2.

Snacks for Wraparound

Parents have queried about the possibility of snacks being available at kids club. Kids club already provide the facility for pupils to have sandwiches and drinks.

Year 6 end Cosmo.

Some year 6 parents have commented that they are not happy about pupils not going to Cosmo. This trip has become very expensive as school now has to provide transport for pupils. (This had previously being the free use of a mini bus from Cheslyn Hay, which is no longer available.). If parents offered to cover the cost of the coach would they be able to do so? Unfortunately Cosmos children meals are on a height basis and the pupils would be charged for an adult meal. Could parents cover the whole cost of the trip? Unfortunately not all parents have been covering the cost of school trips within school.

Miss Edwards.

Nursery parents expressed sadness that Miss Edwards was leaving at the end of term, they wondered if there was anything that could be done for her to stay. Unfortunately all of the staff positions for September have been filled. Parents wished Miss Edwards all the best for the future.

Year 4, Girls changing for PE.

Parents have asked if there is anything to be done for year 4 girls to have more privacy when changing for PE. LB confirmed that the pupils are allowed to change in the toilets, but school would need to firstly receive a permission letter from home to as they would be unsupervised whilst changing.

SATS

Parents wanted to thank the school for the support pupils had received in preparation for and during sats. Parents fed back that pupils were able to complete the sats in a relaxed and organized environment. Thanked Miss Turner for her dedication to the pupils. Breakfast club prior to the exams also proved to have a positive impact and reduced nerves a bit.

KS1 Sats.

Parents have queried when KS1 will complete their SATS. LB confirmed that the reading element had been completed. The remaining subjects are ongoing and assessed over a period of time, rather under exam conditions such as KS2.

Red Cards

Some parents felt that some clarity was needed as to why red cards are given. They appreciate that for hitting another child this would be a red card, but felt other lesser offences have been given red cards too. LB confirmed that red cards can be given when a lesser offence is persistent and repeated. Parents are informed when pupils are given red cards and the reasons why.

Parking:

Parking is still an ongoing issue. A minority of parents continue to ignore the advice given about safe parking around the school. Parents asked if it would be possible to have a lollipop lady. This had been discussed previously and is not currently an option. LB urged parents to park in a safe manner to maintain the safety of the pupils.

School Absences

Parents are concerned that absences through illness are impacting on pupil's attendance. Some felt that more clarity was needed. LB commented that illness absences reported are classed as an authorized absence. For holidays LB is unable

to give consent so even if parents have written a letter to school, LB cannot respond. The letters go on file as a reason for the absence, so LB EG will not follow up.

School clubs

Parents queried if it would have clubs that had traditional skill, such as knitting/needlework/woodwork.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 7th October 2015 at 6.00