



Parent Forum Minutes: Wednesday 6th October 2015 at 6.00 p.m.

Present:

Leanne Bridgwood (Head teacher), Nikki Turner (Deputy head teacher), Viki Bates, Laura Beech, Jane Harris, Julie Keates, Jo Marson, Liz Moreton, Freya Sangha,

Apologies:

Simon Cartlidge, David Mermod, Shirley Stewart Cooney.

1. Minutes of the previous meeting.

- Letters of recruitment for parent forum members are to be sent out.
- Think 2 prices are to be restructured. Parent forum reps notified LB that the discount for September has not been actioned. **(LB)**
- A new system has been installed to track pupil absence. This has revealed that 50% of pupils have already taken time off. Parents may be fined if pupils take a lot of individual unauthorised days, they no longer have to be consecutive days. The authority makes the final decision to enforce fines, however there is increasing pressure from the government to fine parents. Schools do not benefit from fines, all funds are sent direct to the authority. It is really important that pupils miss as little as possible of their education. Recent studies show that pupils who are absent for 5-10 % of school are reducing their potential achievements by 20%.
- School clubs: Unfortunately there is still no craft club as there are no staff skilled in this area. There are a variety of other sports clubs and also Spanish and French clubs for pupils to attend.

2. Focus of the parent forum

It is important that the views all parents within your year group are represented. Confidentiality must be upheld at all times. Agendas will be sent out a week prior to the meetings. Items that you are asked to discuss will need to be added to the agenda. Additional items on the day may be postponed to the next meeting. This is to keep the forum running efficiently.

3. School trips.

Parents have enquired about the possibility of a discount for siblings for trips, especially for the more expensive trips. Unfortunately costings are made per head. If enough parents do not pay then the trips will need to be cancelled.

There is a facility to edit payment on the parent pay for voluntary contributions in genuine cases where the full cost of the trip may not be met by the parent. This would need to be approved by the school, too many short payments will result in cancelling the trip.

LB asked the opinion of the PF reps relating to school trips. Some parents felt that they would like the opportunity for pupils to go on more trips. Not always educational though, some parents would like pupils to go on fun trips, such as the theatre.

Some parents found the cost of some trips expensive, especially when some locations are free to the public. LB assured parents that coach travel is expensive and at the venues special educational tour guides are hired with pupils taking part in extra activities, giving them the best possible experience.

MP has a contact within Majestic and has offered to contact them to see if they can offer the school a discount. **(MP)**

VB enquired about the possibility of hiring other schools mini buses.

4. Back to school

Parents have reported that children have settled in well and like Miss Boulton and Miss Scott.

Year 1 parents have also provided positive feedback for Mr Cartwright.

Parents informed the forum that new children to reception had settled in well and had been integrated socially outside of school.

Year N, R, 3, 4, 5, 6 had also settled well, with positive comments.

Parents commented that the smart sacks had been well received by the pupils.

VB queried the possibility of having hand sanitizers around the school to help prevent the spread of germs. **(LB)**

Parents queried if there was a reward book for good behaviour. This is already in place and is called the 'golden book'. LB informed parents that pupils have asked for a next level to the green card, to encourage pupils to stay green. They came up with the idea of the ambassador card – details are to be confirmed,

Pupils will also receive an improved attendance award this year, as some pupils are not reaching the goals for the badges, however they should be congratulated for improved attendance. Also those who have received the gold award will go on to receive a higher rewards.

5. Reward system.

Parents are confused by the reward system. This is detailed in the behaviour policy which is available for parents to read on the website. Parents seem to be confused by red cards which are handed out for behaviours that seem less serious than others. Some pupils have received them for shouting out. LB reassured parents that those would be the consequence of continued offence. Red cards will be instantly rewarded for language, damage to property and deliberately hurting another child. Parents are informed if a child has been awarded a red card, but not for a yellow one (a parent may be informed if this behaviour was persistent though). The ethos within the school is to promote positivity and celebrate pupil's successes within the school.

6. Letter return slips.

Parents have requested that year 1 are asked to hand in return slips for letters. Parents felt that pupils were still not responsible enough to hand them in independently. **(LB)**.

LB commented that trips requiring payment would now also be authorised by parents through parent pay. She also confirmed that general letters and newsletters would be published on Facebook in future.

7. Feedback.

Parents have asked when pupils will receive their reading dairies. LB confirmed that from Key Stage 1 and EYFS have Reading Diaries but Key Stage 2 would not have these anymore, however individual families who found this useful can request one from the school office. Currently Yr 1 and 2 are participating in intensive reading programme which means teachers have not been recording comments in the Reading Diary. LB will consider how the paperwork necessary as part of the programme can be balanced out with ensuring parents have feedback.

KS2 parents asked if they should still be reading with pupils. LB commented that it is still important and also to check pupils comprehension, by asking questions about the story's they are reading.

KS1 parent's feedback that they liked having a reading diary as they felt it encouraged pupils to read.

Parents have asked if it would be possible to have a phonics workshop for year 1, as some parents are still unsure of the sounds and rules for letters like the silent k. LB will speak with Mrs. Lockett. **(LB)**

8. Homework

Parents queried what homework pupils should be working, as it hasn't been updated on the website.

The home school link letter is sent home half termly and informs parents of what pupils will be doing during the next term.

The website will no longer have homework that is recommended to complete. This will be replaced with optional educational learning links that can be completed at any point in the term. Parents can request extra homework for their children if they feel that their child would benefit from this.

Each week pupils will receive the following work that should be completed; Spellings, hand writing, talk for writing and regular reading, Topic based projects will be set each school break.

3 times yearly, parents will now receive a feedback sheet which will feedback to parents on their child's achievements, but also to inform parents areas where pupils may need to improve.

9. Think 2

Positive feedback has been received from think 2 from the wider community. Parents asked if think 2 children would also receive a report/Parents evening. LB confirmed that there would be an open day, rather than a formal parents evening.

10. Laches wood.

Parents informed the parent forum that pupils were very excited about the forthcoming trip. Parents queried if the teachers would be sleeping in the dorms with the pupils. NT confirmed that the teachers will sleep at either end of the dorms and coded entry is required.

11. Parking

Parents must be more considerate to residents when dropping off pupils. Parents have commented that drives are being blocked, some residents have received abuse from parents. Safety of the pupils is an ongoing issue with parents continuing to park on double yellow lines outside the school. PF suggested a walking bus from the Whitehorse car park to school to try and encourage people to park safely in this area, in principle this is a good idea, but it would need to be run by committed volunteers as School staff are required on the premises.

12. Website

The school website is currently being updated. All new policies have been added to the website. JK asked if a list of parent forum reps could be sent out on Facebook ahead of the next parent forum meeting.

Actions from the meeting

LB to action the September discount for think 2.

LB to ask MC (year 1) to request returned letter slips.

LB to discuss the possibility of a phonics workshop for year 1 with JL.

LB to consider the use of hand sanitisers in school.

MP to contact Majestic and enquire about discounts for school trips.

Next meeting: Wednesday 16th December at 6.00 p.m.