

Parents' Forum Meeting 3 : Held on 13.1.16

Present: E Burt, P Gregson, S McMillan, C Dodd, R Mahajan, A Jones.

Apologies: A Walker

Reading Leaflet-

Parents were asked to give feedback on a sample reading leaflet that could be adapted to send home to parents re reading at home. How could we encourage parents to read more with their children? Looked at the leaflet from St Mary's Primary School to get ideas, parents asked if we might be able to have a bank of statements.

One idea from parents is at the beginning of the year could we send out a list of appropriate ideas for books to read, so that parents have an idea of different books to get for reading at home?

Behaviour Leaflet

Parents were asked to look at our current behaviour leaflet and some examples from other schools. What format do you prefer, how could we improve our current leaflet? Parents shown the updated School Promises, which will be displayed all over school in the next couple of weeks.

Parents asked if staff might be able to allocate a 'Time to come and talk to me', surgery time for talking to children about any issues they might have as some parents have said that their child felt that they have not been given time. AJ explained that we have reintroduced suggestion/ worry boxes in the classroom, but needs to check these being collected/ sorted? The children are noticing the pressure staff are under to get through the curriculum as teachers are saying more often that they are too busy to talk to them now but parents feel that happiness and safety are the most important issues for them, rather than their children achieving academically.

AJ explained that all classes have had work in Anti-bullying week on who to talk to, what to do if they are worried about anything, so we will make sure that we check that pupils remember what to do and that staff follow up any requests for pupils to talk to them. AJ will make sure that there is some information for parents put on the website, so that they can see what children have talked about during that Anti-Bullying week this academic year.

School promises- to go website. Green Dragon Primary School- this is what we do in order to encourage this behaviour, think about whether bullying and consequences need to be on a separate sheet? If not, what could we take out. What do do, not do.

Encourage children to speak up if worried or upset. School Promises, Dinner Hall Rules, Playground Golden Rules.

Could pupils be asked to think about what we say to children- ' Can we come back to this later.'

Using telling the children- be kind, be considerate, don't tell tales. Could we have a Mantra for children to use to develop their confidence- this might be a good idea for less confident children. AJ explained that some schools use a Smiley face chart in the classroom, where children put their name on a smiley/ straight/ sad face to show their emotions when they come into class in the morning,

after break, lunch afternoon play- we will suggest that we trial this in infant classrooms, as teaching staff can then pick a moment to check that child is ok when it is not inconvenient, as the face chart stops them from forgetting that they haven't spoken to a child.

Information session on changes to KS1 SATs- information meeting to be held this half term, to introduce the changes for the interim 2016 SATs. Think about booking workshops for Friday afternoon, so that more parents can attend.

Learning Platform/ online homework- what have we got/ encouraging pupils to use it more. Mrs Clennell running meeting for parents to show how it works and how it can help your child. This was originally going to be for Reception parents, but could be opened up to other year groups if their parents would like to attend.

Healthy Schools Work:

Food Council/ Food For Life Partnership Award update-

Currently we have achieved 23 out of 27 criterion for our Bronze Schools Award. One of the areas we are now working on is the opportunity for pupils to visit a farm as a regular opportunity, therefore we have arranged to take the members of Food Council on 20.4.16 to Lower Hurst Organic Farm. Pupils will be given the opportunity to find out about organic farming, the origins of meat.

CD asked if it would be possible that when we have information workshops, such as the one from Quorn, could we have a note sent home just before the workshop to check parents happy to have their children learn about it. Could we investigate soya based alternatives? Thinking about the pestifer power problem of companies coming in, so that parents do not feel pressured to cook something at home that we have been using in a workshop. PG felt that the idea of having workshops to find out about different foods/ sources of food is a good idea as this may influence parents in a good way to have a go at cooking something that they might not have thought of before.

Healthy Living Club-

Derby NHS Livewell team- will be starting the 6 week project to tackle overweight/ obesity/ inactive lifestyles with children. Invitations are to be sent out this week to up to 50 selected pupils, with the hope that we get approximately 20 pupils signing up for the project. Parents were asked to feedback on the letter to be sent out to parents this week, to see what they think of the wording.

We have also applied to become a pilot school for a Healthy Schools project from NHS Derby Livewell team, where we have proposed to develop our use of outdoor environment to develop health and wellbeing for pupils. We will find out in March/ April whether we have been selected to be one of ten schools to take part in this pilot project.

All parents in forum meeting felt that it might be better to send out a letter to all pupils talking about a healthy living club- emphasising that it is not just about doing sport to keep healthy rather than targeting specific pupils, as this may cause confidence issues with pupils and stress parents if they felt their child had been picked for this club. Parents felt that it would be better that all children received a letter to invite them to participate, then we can select pupils from the ones who express an interest. They felt it would be a good thing to have the club to help pupils and their families to

start thinking about small changes that they can make at home, e.g. buying fruit instead of crisps, or going to the park/ swimming pool etc.

Also parents asked about what equipment we currently give children to play with on the playground during breaktime and lunchtime- would it be a good idea to see if parents might be able to donate items such as spare skipping ropes, hoola hoops, Frisbees, small balls that they might have at home but no longer need.

Parents' Forum update for the website.

Parents asked to prepare a short statement and choose a photo that they would like to have shared on the school website. The current statements from 2014-2015 are available to look at for inspiration.

School website: Parents were asked to think about the current website and anything that they feel needs to be added/ changed-

Making sure dates are up to date, copies of letters for parents to read online,

Needs to be user friendly for mobiles and tablets as currently does not work very well on these.

Friends of Mickleover- no current information about how to contact via email, and only phone number on the website is the school phone number.

School meals are on the website and are referred to by parents a lot, this is needs to stay.

Could we have a parents' guide to new curriculum on the website for each year group with the expectation for the end of the year in Reading, Writing and Maths? This would help parents to know where they are aiming for with their child in case they want to do any extra work/ buy resources for home such as suitable reading books/ take their child on trips that might help them. PG suggested that the Book People have got a good book that would help us organise/ word this for parents?

Could we have timetables for each year group either in the diaries or the website, so that you know roughly what your child is doing that day- so that you know what the child has done that day?

The website has got to be the oracle for parents. All the information should be on the website e.g. reading, behaviour etc.

CD asked: Could we not think about how to make it more like the Woodlands Junior site? AJ explained that the learning platform should really be the first port of call for curriculum information and that it depends on whether schools have a dedicated member of staff to organise the website.

Mrs Gerver has asked whether Parents' Forum members might know anyone that would be able to volunteer for an hour a week to help keep the website updated for us. Please let her know or email AJ about this if you have any interest yourself or know a parent who might be able to help.

After school clubs etc could be added?

Making sure that children know what to do on the learning platform would help. AJ explained that children get regular opportunities in their Computing sessions to go onto the platform and see what has been added. Parents explained that Year 1 and Year 4 seem to be the best year groups for having regular activities/ homework on the platform, but that sometimes it is hit and miss with other year groups. They acknowledge that sometimes staff have got pressures on in other areas of the curriculum and cannot always be as eager as a teacher in another year, for whom ICT is a high priority, but the children really enjoy using the platform when it is updated regularly.

Chart- how often are they on- leader board- how often have they been on- parents asked if we could promote this more in school, perhaps having a platform 'user of the week' point like teampoints that are awarded if you are the top user in your class e.g. Additional skill points/ team points for the juniors.

Also, could teachers ensure that a weekly focus on Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar possibly be put on the learning platform, again so that parents know what to work on at home?

Communication- could we move more to being online? Streamlining to a paperless system, as many schools have now begun to do.

Information for parents- could we think next time about what information we share with parents inbetween the September to June- could we have a summary sheet? Or AJ suggested that we might be looking at trialling Class Dojo, an online rewards system with the function to communicate with parents via secure email.

Feedback from Mrs Gerver- Miss Evans has been to see a system on Borrowood, which we would be able to use for dates, information to parents etc, with teachers using a tablet in class to share information. We will investigate this further to see how this could be used at Mickleover. There is a link attached for parents to have a look at, with a presentation about this new communication tool- could you please look and give feedback by Friday 15th January if possible- please see attached powerpoint.

A.O.B.

Menu changes for infant pupils- When parents have chosen meals with pupils at home, should these be changed? Sometimes child is changing to a sandwich when parents have requested hot dinner and this is sometimes causing issues at home, as their parent will have expected them to have had a hot meal at lunchtime.

Feedback from Mr Goodwin is that he would rather that the children have something that they will eat rather than something that is going to be thrown in the bin. Lunchtime staff are giving out slips now to pupils who don't like their dinner, so that they can talk with their parents and choose something else for next time. Reception and Year 1 staff are trying to discourage children from changing their choice, especially if children have chosen it from home with parents, Year 2 will still be given a choice, to change their pre-order if want to, but we will make sure that they have carefully considered the option that they had already first. Years 3 – 6 will continue to choose on the day.

Sum it up- What makes Mickleover so special (the X Factor)? Could you have a think about what makes our school special, ready for a display at the front of school? Please email your ideas to AJ.

Next meeting will be held on: Wednesday 24th February at 9.05am.

Some of the items on the agenda for next time are:

Diaries for KS1 pupils

Update on Communication between parents and staff – website

Communication with parents- what information do you want to see re. achievement/ targets etc during the year (before end of year reports)?

I am sure that the list will grow before the next meeting. Thank you for attending.