

Minutes from Parents' Forum Meeting 5

Held on 3.6.15

Present:

Parent	Year groups represented
Ciaran Dodd	Years 3, 1
Ellie Burt	Reception(next year N)
Sally McMillan	Reception
Pam Gregson	Years 3, 1
Anna Jones	Assistant Head KS1 Year 5 and 6 parent
Kate Halliday	Assistant Head KS2 Year 2 and 6 parent.

Apologies:

Shaun McCartney	Year 2
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1. Science Day Summer 2015.

Recap of the day and how it went. All Year groups chose an area of interest to experiment with the children, children made and tested their own products, e.g. paper aeroplanes, bubble mixtures, balloons etc.

KH explained that the Year 4 pupils for example, loved the opportunity to make and test paper aeroplanes as almost half of them had never made a paper aeroplane before! Parents were impressed that children were being given opportunities to share their ideas and create their own experiments and that it has inspired children to think about making and testing at home.

2. VE Day celebrations- recap of our day, including the ice-cream van! Very positive feedback from parents re the day and how the children had enjoyed eating together, making poppies and thinking about stories from the past. Are there any more activities planned for WW1 or WW2 next year?

3. Music in the curriculum- Frozen Sing-a-long, Music Concert, 10 Big Pieces. Children enjoyed the singing, this was a great way to raise funds, who will the children have come in to work with them? Will it be a yearly event? AJ to ask Mrs Clennell, Music Co-ordinator. Music concert was a big success, as it always is, great opportunity for children to share their talents. Feedback from parents after the concert to staff was that children enjoyed the opportunity to perform to a live audience as it builds up their confidence.

4. Healthy Eating Week 2nd to 5th June

Forum visited the Smoothie Bike session in the hall to see children cycling and tasting their smoothies. Children all engaged, really enjoying the sessions,

especially being able to choose the flavour of their smoothie and having a chance to pedal the music system bike if they do not like smoothies.

Visited Year 2 to see examples of Healthy Eating work, where children were researching the amount of sugar in each cereal. Children were shocked to see the difference in some of the cereals. AJ explained that the plans are for the children to move on to work on cereal bar tasting then designing their own cereal bars, thinking about how they can reduce the sugar content in their bars.

KH explained the Year 4 timetable for healthy living week and the work the children are doing on healthy snack swapping, all children in Year 4 have been encouraged to bring a snack in for after breaktime and the classes have been sitting together as a class to eat their snacks and talk about healthier choices than eating biscuits or crisps if you get hungry for example. Both AJ and KH explained that they have planned work on breakfasts as there are still a significant minority of pupils that are not eating any breakfast before school and KH explained that as they are also not bringing any snack for morning break they are incredibly hungry now that the KS2 dinner time has moved to 12.15pm. Parents asked if there anything that school can do with this knowledge to encourage/ help pupils. AJ explained that school can use information like this to think about the feasibility of a breakfast club to help pupils and KH explained that for pupils in Year 4 upwards it is about developing the pupils independence, so that they are able to take responsibility for making their own breakfast if there is food at home that they could have.

Recap from Livewell Team Event 2.6.15. The children in all classes from Reception to Year 6 spent time with the Derby NHS Livewell team yesterday, thinking about a recap of the eatwell plate, making healthy food choices and also doing some physical activity with a circuit, to help inspire children to set up a circuit at home. Pupils in general enjoyed the sessions, but found the idea of continuous exercise for 20 mins quite challenging!

5. Homework Policy for KS2 and minimum expectations regarding reading/ spellings etc.

Mrs Halliday will be came to discuss parent opinions on new updated reading diaries for KS2 and new homework expectations. She explained that the main reason for the changes were two-fold, firstly there approx. 50% parents feel we give too much homework and the other 50% feel that we don't give enough. Also, as children become 'free readers' from Year 3 upwards teachers find that often parents are not listening to or checking children have read at the exact time when they are developing their inference and deduction skills etc and this is not giving the opportunities for children to practice retelling or giving opinions about the plot/ character etc.

Parents asked if it might be possible to give them some ideas of what to ask their child. Mrs Halliday explained that she usually gives out a bookmark with question prompts for before the child has read the book, after they have read and giving opinions about the book. She asked if this might be useful? Forum members all agreed this would be really helpful, but could it go into the front of the reading diary so that it doesn't get lost, along with a space for children to write when they have their spelling test and when they have their PE sessions.

Overall parents felt that the idea of a minimum expectation was a great idea and that twice a week for reading and maths targets was a good idea and not too much to cope with.

Question about the spellings column, Mrs H had originally said it could be used to check when children are not practising or if children are having to practise every night whether spellings are too difficult. EB questioned whether this is what it would actually tell you, as keen parents get their children to practice every night to make sure that their children has secured/ consolidated, does not necessarily mean that they they are too difficult.

4. **Computing update-**

AJ explained that Mrs Whittingham and Mrs Halliday have purchased new cameras for the children to use in lessons. Training will be taking place in the Summer term for staff to help them use these in the new computing curriculum.

5. **Healthy Schools - New menus**

New menus were sent out before the half term, positive feedback from parents. Parents also really enjoyed the Year 3 cooking session that the children had done with Mr Goodwin, children had come back really enthusiastic about making their own sauces at home. Parents wanted to thank Mr Goodwin for the enthusiasm he has given the children about their food.

● **Sun Safe School**

New resources have arrived, time to unpack and look at what has been sent and how we can use it to help us achieve the school's pledge to become a Level 1 accredited 'Sun Safe' school. EB asked if children would be kept inside if they do not have hats or suncream. AJ explained that children would not be prevented from going out, it is to encourage them to think more about sun safety, not to police the children. The new UV measurer and suncream dispensers have been delivered to school from the BBC Radio Derby Colin Bloomfield Appeal. AJ to find out about where we purchase refills for the suncream and the COSH paperwork before sending out information to parents about the suncream.

● **Cooking Club-** Year 6 have just completed their 6 week course from last half term. Year 5 are now about to start their six week block. Pupils have been really enthusiastic about the cooking they have done, staff from the catering team have stayed to help Mr Goodwin deliver the sessions as there were 18 pupils in the Year 6 club. This has been reduced to 12 pupils for the Year 5 club to make it more manageable.

● **Gardening Club-** feedback so far. Gardening Club run by AJ for Year 5 pupils began in April. Parents were informed that there are currently 9 girls and 3 boys in club and that the children have started growing tomatoes, carrots, potatoes, sunflowers, purple sprouting broccoli, white cabbage, peas, beans and have taken home tomato and pea seeds that they have planted. Parents Forum invited to have a look at the school garden when we meet in July.

New arrangements for parents to Reception for September-

Home visits/ information from school. Feelings from Parents' Forum- All parents felt sad that home visits are stopping, as parents in forum felt that this was a useful time to connect with class teacher and that their children had been more calm/ confident in the home environment. AJ fed back that this is a trial for September and that feedback to Mrs

Whittingham in the Autumn term Parents' Forum would be really useful, so that she can tweak for the 2016-2017 intake. AJ explained that also pupils will have to have a baseline assessment when they enter Reception from 2016 and that the format chosen for the baseline will be trialled with pupils in September 2015 intake. School already has own baseline system, but has now chosen one of the nationally recommended companies.

Transition meeting for Reception to Year 1- do we give enough information? Feedback on proposed booklet for parents- good to have the information, it is quite wordy, could it be simplified and note put on it to say please keep for future reference? AJ to make changes and send to Parents' Forum via email for comments. Overall feedback was that it is very useful to have all the information in one booklet to take away, as sometimes there are questions you would like to ask but you are not sure as a parent when/ who to ask about it. Particular favourite was the information about the topics covered in each half term during Years 1 and 2, as it was felt to be useful in case you wanted to take your children out somewhere that might help with their future topics etc.

AOB

Dates of Future Meetings:

Wednesday 1st July 9.05am

New dates to be arranged for Autumn term 2015.