

Parents Forum 24th April 2018 minutes

Ellie Burt, Petya Ingnatova, Debbie Parks, Anna Jones, Pam Gregson

Apologies: Lydia Brown.

Spring Reports feedback- new format

Discussed attendance percentages- that the percentage is based on all possible sessions a pupil can attend during the year (2 sessions per day- am and pm). Petya was concerned that school includes all absences even if parent has contacted to say why child absent e.g. illness, medical appointment or exam for music/ ballet etc. Mrs Jones explained that this is not just school's policy, this is what all schools must record and report on. We have a duty to monitor attendance for all pupils and contact parents once attendance falls below a certain percentage via letter or face to face meeting. If low attendance persists school will contact Education Welfare Officer and meet with parents to see what is happening with pupil and try to work together to improve attendance.

Parents information sessions

Parents in forum agreed that successful sessions have been run this year on the following:

Learning platform and online protection training

Maths- this will be followed up by another session which is currently being planned by maths co-ordinators.

To be held in the Summer term-

SRE sessions - Parental engagement in SRE meetings

What would you like to see in the future?

Parents asked for the following English information sessions:

Could we have a grammar terminology information session for KS2 with an information sheet for parents, as the terminology is getting more and more complicated for pupils as they move up through school?

Reading comprehensions-

Could we think about how to guide parents in more detail, think about making it more clear for parents about what we are asking the pupils. Would we be better to do reading comprehensions for homework. Focus on DERIC skills, doesn't have to be major number of questions, but linked into the schools work on developing reading skills.

Could pupils have Homework in a book for this, so that parents and pupils can refer back to similar style questions to help them with the week's homework?

Do all parents need to work on having a focused session with their child at home for homework? Most parents in forum work on the homework with their child but sometimes the homework set is too difficult even for the adult who is working with their child. Mrs Goozee and Mrs Hilton used to set targeted homework, which parents really liked for Year 6, for example it might be a copy of a sheet pupils have done that day in class, that children can explain and complete independently at home.

Parents feel that homework set should be:

- Short
- Effective
- Built on what they have done in school

Year 2 and Year 3. Inconsistencies in the amount of homework given. Year 2 seem to be having more homework currently than Year 3.

Need to think about the impact of home life balance. Keep to consistent homework. Try to give a weekend. Thinking about keeping the work motivated.

Parents not so keen on two week homeworks. Keeping the consistency- how can we ensure that all pupils are giving the same amount of focus to their work, as some pupils working on a project every night over the two weeks and some rushing to complete the weekend before handing it in. Some pupils doing a lot of work and others not so, could we do assessment points, so that pupils have to bring what they have done so far in the middle week to be checked by the teacher?

Online homework- Mymaths has proven really successful- it is quick, useful and relevant. Could we send a note home to say it has been set? Could we think about more online homework. Learning platform is good, as gives a booster to pupils who want to do extra learning at home.

Think about parents and the time to be spent over homework.

Maybe could we put a note the diaries for the infants to explain that the maths targets should be practised three times a week as none of the parents were aware that we have the same expectations in the infants as we do in the juniors for maths targets.

Could homeworks be based around developing vocabulary? Parents with Year 6 pupils in particular have seen how important it is for children to have built up a wide vocabulary in order to understand the context of some of the reading comprehensions they are being asked to complete for SATS e.g. how can a child understand what or where Hastings is in a test if they have never read about it/ learnt about it in school.

Homework- work life balance

Communication and Safeguarding- GDPR in schools

Class dojo- need to look at something similar, as have just found out that schools in UK will no longer be able to use this, but parents in infant classes where this has been trialled love it as a method of communication about effort, behaviour, general learning in the curriculum.

GDPR- Mrs Jones shared that staff have all attended training on GDPR (new government data protection requirements). She explained that all schools have to be compliant alongside companies, and this impacts on the websites that we use in school such as mymaths- all websites that require pupil, parent or staff data must be checked to ensure compliancy with new rules.

To ensure compliance for staff- all staff will have encryption on laptops and on memory sticks. Data will be accessed via secure online methods only. Mrs Powell, School Business Manager is checking whole school compliance with new rules which come in at the end of May 2018.

Royal Wedding

Street party or themed lunch- could we do this celebration the Monday after the wedding so that we can have all the school celebrate as Year 5 away on PGL trip on the 18th May (day before the wedding).

West End in Schools Workshop

All pupils loved it, been in Harry Potter. All pupils were really engaged in this, inspiring and fun! Parents would be very happy to pay for this kind of workshop again for next year.

Tesco Bags of Help

If you see good wording about our application for a grant please let me know. We are aiming to apply for an organic gardening area or outdoor learning shelter that could be used for community.

PGL- it is so expensive. Parents really want children to go but the costs are becoming more and more expensive. Why is the school being charged so much?

Can we not renegotiate the price, or knock a day off. Could we think about perhaps looking at a different place to go? This is effecting family holidays for many more families now.

If the costs were lower would more pupils go?

As you need more things on top, such as trainers, sleeping bags etc it is too much.

SATS- although the balance of subjects for pupils is given here, some pupils do still get worried about it, can we think about the mental preparation for pupils for Year 6 – building up stamina. Mental Health and Wellbeing. Try your best attitude is really important here at MPS but how can we further help pupils?

Developing vocabulary- words in context for reading shows how important geography and history and art and PE.

Safeguarding

Questionnaires to be organised to see how parents and pupils feel about our safeguarding procedures. Go through this in next meeting.

Parent View- Reminder to parents to go onto parent view so that we have responses from this year.

Any other business:

Update on trying to provide space for after school club plus clubs in the hall. Mrs Powell has looked into this for school, but the cost of the dividers for hall would be £15, 000 . As the school is now working to try and raise enough funds to build a purpose built building for after school club this is an outlay that cannot be justified. Forum agreed that the hall is too small to be divided into an effective space for two clubs to run at the same time anyway.

Meeting ended: 9.50am

Next meeting set for: Tuesday 5th June 2018 at 9am.