

Parents' Forum 3

Date: 18.2.15

Parents in attendance for today's meeting:

Parent	Year groups represented
Ciaran Dodd	Years 3, 1
Ellie Burt	Reception(next year N)
Pam Gregson	Years 3, 1
Sally McMillan	Reception
Anna Jones	Assistant Head KS1 Year 5, 6 parents

Apologies from:

Annette Harrison, Shaun McMillan.

Annette has started a new job, so will only be able to attend occasional meetings. Both Shaun and Annette will be contributing to Parents' Forum via email due to work commitments. Many thanks for continuing to be part of this group.

Dates for future meetings are:

Wednesday 15th April at 9.05am

Wednesday 3rd June at 9.05am

Wednesday 1st July at 9.05am

Notes from Previous Meeting 7.1.15

Workshops/tutorials- Staff have been working on the revision of school calculation policy this term, led by our Maths Co-ordinators, Mrs Sharpe (KS1) and Mrs Harrison (KS2). Discussion about changing from referring to progress in ' year groups' to 'stages' to make parents more aware that children should use the method appropriate to their stage of development rather than being pressured to use a specific method because they are in a certain year group. Parents in Forum felt that this is a good idea, so that they are more aware of how we are teaching the four rules of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division in school.

Once the calculation policy has been fully redrafted it is intended to have a simplified version for parents to access and workshops for parents to be organised for the Summer term 2015. More information to follow in next meeting about this.

Parents asked if this might be added to website once it has been completed for people to access from home.

Young Enterprise- the Fiver Challenge- more about this in the next meeting.

Healthy Schools review- all parents in group have now completed the Healthy Schools Parents Questionnaire. Many thanks, this will be used to help complete the audit for 2014-2015.

School Garden- AJ to work with Mr Goodwin and Mr Morris to see if we can find a suitable site for the school garden to be set up. AJ to sign up school to Jamie Oliver's school garden project. <http://www.jamieskitchengarden.org/membership/>

VLP- Virtual Learning Platform.

In response to forum's questions about how the use of the VLP could be improved, Mrs Clennell has now offered to take responsibility for running and promoting the learning platform in school, as she is one of the most proficient users of this in school. Staff and parents of the forum all agree that this is a great idea and look forward to using it more.

Issues for this meeting:

Lost Property- what happens to lost property that has been named? Parents are aware of the procedure that lost property that has been left at school for over two weeks will be bagged and sent to charity if not claimed due to the restrictions on the amount of space we have to keep items at school. Would it be possible to send a reminder to parents to check that all property is labelled and for staff to do occasional checks with pupils to see that everything is labelled e.g. a spot check at the beginning of each term to see if coats and jumpers/ cardigans are labelled?

What happens to labelled items of clothing- do these get sent off to charity also? AJ reassured parents that every effort is made to reunite pupils with clothing that has been named and that this labelled clothing would not be sent off for recycling.

Homework- When pupils have homework set on the virtual learning platform would it be possible for them to write a note in their reading diary to remind them to do it, as some parents today were concerned that homework had been set but there was no note to remind pupils to do this and so they had forgotten. This would be helpful for pupils to do, to help them take more responsibility for their homework.

Healthy Eating-

Parents asked if would be possible to have clearer guidance on what is suitable for a 'healthy lunchbox' from home. Also, would there be a possibility of pupils who are bringing lunch from home to order a pudding from school rather than bringing less healthy snacks and sweets from home?

Would it be possible to get an explanation as to how the school meals are designed to fit in with the healthy eating guidelines e.g. how does Mr Goodwin choose a pudding and make it fit into the guidelines?

Would Mr Goodwin be able to add a recipe each term on his newsletter, or think about putting together a set of recipes in a 'cookbook' that parents would be able to purchase for a small fee, as many of the children have asked for meals that we have on the menu for the evening at home and parents would like to be able to cook them for them.

Mr Goodwin and Mrs Jones to meet Weds 4th March to discuss starting the Cooking Club in the Summer term. Parents would like to know more about who this will be aimed at and when it will run.

E-Safety

The draft of the e-safety policy which was presented to staff for discussion last half term was shared with Parents' Forum today. This is a comprehensive policy, designed to cover use of all forms of ICT within school for staff, pupils and parents.

Parents acknowledged that there is a lot to take in with regards to changes in practice, particularly for staff with the storage and use of mobile phones and for parents, the use of mobile phones and tablets to record images of their children on occasions such as assemblies, sports events and plays.

Page 7- Parents felt that it was important that all staff set a 'good example' to pupils by not having phones around on desks or out in the classroom, as we are expecting pupils to not use them during the day. They are aware that it is important to give people time to assimilate to the new rules, but that it is good practice anyway to not have valuables such as phones etc out on show anyway to deter theft.

It was also felt that all parents and visitors to school would benefit from a simple, clear reminder of the expectations in school about the use of mobile phones, e.g. a sign at the office explaining that when you enter the school all mobiles should be turned off or put on silent, that they should not be on show, that photos should only be taken at the end of assemblies of your own child, not other pupils.

Would it be possible for the pupil contract to be simplified for each year group, so that children are able to understand what it means?

Could a glossary be added or better explanation of some terminology that we use in school, for example, parents were unsure about what SLT or SMT means.

On page 10 of the policy there is a table explaining what type of incident would be dealt with in different situations and who would deal with this, There was a question from the Forum about whether parents should actually be informed if any of these incidents were to occur, as they would rather know about it so that they could monitor their child's behaviour at home or in case they had been doing anything at home that would cause concern if also linked to an incident at school.

Login details- on the code of conduct for pupils Appendix 2, it states that pupils should not share passwords or login details. Parents wanted to make it clearer to pupils that sharing passwords with parents is a sensible idea, e.g. for the learning platform, so could this be changed to keep passwords to yourself and/or parent or carer.

Does there need to be an annual reminder to parents about this policy rather than just signing up to the policy when the pupils first start school? This is an important policy, so does it need to be more prominent?

AJ explained that once the policy has been redrafted, some decisions about certain aspects will be discussed and agreed by the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and represented to staff and parents.

Parents Forum on the website-

Mrs Powell has set up a Parents' Forum section on the website, most members of the forum have drafted a short piece about themselves for the Parents' Forum page, this will be emailed to AJ along with a photo to go on the webpage.

- General introduction to who you are and what you do for a living.
- Which year groups your children are currently in.
- Why you wanted to become a part of Parents' Forum.
- Come and talk if you are in the year groups that I represent.

Technical Authoring- upper KS2

CD explained that as part of her consultancy work she has been given the opportunity to work with the ISTC, who are looking for ways to develop lessons plans and/ or enrichment days to teach children about 'technical authoring.' This is a structured type of writing, which is used for information such as technical manuals or product information, that has to be shared on a variety of formats such as tablets, phones, website, paper copies.

She is looking to support ways in which Year 5/6 might be able to work on technical authoring as a way to stimulate getting boys into writing. She will give some more information and work with AJ to see how this can be developed, possibly during Young Enterprise Week.

SM wanted all staff to be praised for the amount of work that goes on 'behind the scenes' at school. All parents Forum members wanted to say how impressed they are at the actions that have been taken already within the first two meetings in response to questions that they have raised through the forum. AJ thanked all parents for the commitment and professional approach that they have taken towards their work on Parents' Forum.

Next meeting to be held: Weds 15th April 2015 at 9.05am.

If you have any issues that you would like us to discuss at the next forum please let me know.