

Parents' Forum 1

Date: 3.12.14

This is the first session of Parents' Forum for 2014-2015. Parents attending and contact details for group are below. Thank you for agreeing to represent the views of parents and for giving up your time today, it was a great meeting!

Parent	Year groups represented
Gayathri Ramanathan	Year 4
Madhavi Inguva	Year 1
Annette Harrison	Year 3
Ciaran Dodd	Years 3, 1
Ellie Burt	Reception(next year N)
Pam Gregson	Years 3, 1
Sally McMillan	Reception
Shaun McCartney	Year 2
Anna Jones	Assistant Head KS1 Year 5, 6 parents

First session- all present were given opportunity to introduce themselves and discuss what they feel parents forum could be about.

Meetings were agreed for Wednesday mornings, one to be held each half term, usually on the first Wednesday after a holiday- there will be three in the Summer term, as this is a longer term.

Dates for future meetings are:

Wednesday 3rd December at 9.05am

Wednesday 7th January at 9.05am

Wednesday 18th February at 9.05am

Wednesday 15th April at 9.05am

Wednesday 3rd June at 9.05am

Wednesday 1st July at 9.05am

SCHOOL DINNERS

We started off by discussing the in-house school meals.

All parents wanted to congratulate Mr Goodwin and lunchtime staff on the fantastic meals, as their children had felt they were a big success. Children were really keen on the meals and are no longer coming home hungry from school, as they have had a good meal at school.

Question about Infant meals: the original letter stated that the children were asked to make a choice from the menu over three weeks. This letter seemed to indicate that after three weeks another letter would be sent out to make new choices for the following three weeks. Confusion about how pupils can change their options if they don't like something they had previously chosen.

School do let children change in the morning if they do not like the option that they had picked, or parents can send in a note.

Feedback from Mrs Powell: The menu will remain fixed till Feb half term, so as there have only been minor tweaks to the menu, it was felt that the children's current choices could be used until then.

Mrs Gerver has agreed that a reminder sheet could be sent to parents if there are any changes that need to be made to the original choices now that the children have had a chance to try the meals.

Inspire Workshop

Visits to the local churches at Christmas- would it be possible for parents to choose whether their children actually attend these events?

Also, content for some of the year groups was quite evangelical. Would it be possible for future events to be made where other religions are celebrated?

Opportunity for parents to withdraw pupils from these sessions is already available, but notes about the workshops for next year will be sent out to give parents the opportunity to withdraw if necessary. The workshops have been organised for pupils as part of their RE curriculum, where all schools in the country have to have a predominantly Christian focus. However, the idea of different religious theme days/ celebrations is a great idea- we are looking at organising class assemblies, where different classes are given the opportunity to learn about and present information on different cultural and religious celebrations.

Topic resources

Some of the resources used in topic work for KS2 pupils contain stories that are quite gruesome/ play on the minds of more sensitive pupils, can staff be aware of this when planning lessons or give some warning to parents so that they might be able to prepare pupils in advance?

When the topic information letters go out at the beginning of the term these will include information about different stories/ texts that might be used.

Calculation policy/ leaflet for parents

Parents felt that sometimes homework is set for Maths and the methods used are very different from those that adults learnt when we were in school. Would it be possible to for school to give out reminder of calculation policy or a leaflet with methods on? Alternatively, when homework is set could there be a modelled example to help parents understand what children are meant to be doing?

Currently, our Maths co-ordinators are updating the calculation policy in line with the new Curriculum 2014. Once this has been shared with staff, opportunities for parent workshops will be offered later in the school year. Where possible examples will be included for parents, or parents can access methods by using mymaths.co.uk

Reward times for pupils e.g. Golden Time

Would it be possible to know exactly what rewards are used in each year group and for these rewards to be consistent across the year group, e.g. Golden time, which has proven popular in classes where it is used.

The behaviour policy and PSHE policy have both been updated this term. There are many rewards which are consistent across the school, such as outstanding team member or writer award and stickers etc, Many of the classes in KS1 have a special 'choosing/ Golden Time' at the end of the week. Staff appreciate the freedom to also have rewards that are personal to their own class, in order to find something that will motivate their own class. We will look at this in the future as part of our Healthy Schools work.

G&T register and work to support G&T pupils

Letters have been given out to inform parents if their child is on the G&T register, but what does this mean for the pupils- how do we support/ challenge them in class?

Are there any events etc that parents could know about to help their G&T child?

G&T pupils are identified on all planning and opportunities given wherever possible to extend/ challenge pupils. Book monitoring and planning is used to monitor opportunities for pupils.

In addition to this our G&T co-ordinator is working on opportunities for possible G&T clubs for KS2 in different subjects.

Parents who have G&T pupils could also access the NAGC website, where they can join up for membership. This association runs event days for G&T pupils across different parts of the country.

<http://www.potentialplusuk.org/about.php>

Virtual Learning Platform

This was successful in some classes last year, but seems to have 'died a death.' What is happening with it?

There have been some problems with the VLP this term, which have finally been sorted out. All staff have received refresher training on using the new platform and year groups will now have a shared page, so that if one class is set homework or given information it can be passed on to the other class as well. Look out for the new-look VLP after Christmas.

APPs for i-pads/ tablets etc

Could parents be given ideas to help choose appropriate apps at home to help their children?

Ideas may be put on the VLP by class teachers or look out for information on the topic information letters, as staff are already beginning to add information like this plus useful websites to help children.

End of the Day

It is often a rush at the end of the day to get pupils and parents off the school premises, would there be the opportunity for pupils to use the trim trail for example once a week after school if parents were to supervise their own children?

The issue with this is ensuring that the safety of the school premises is not compromised- there are many clubs that run after school in the school hall and on the field, where we have to ensure that these pupils are safe from strangers.

Also, the trim trail has been purchased for pupils to use at break, lunchtime and as a reward for different classes at the end of the week. In the winter it is slippy and out of bounds for pupils and in after school we are still responsible for the safety of the children on the trim trail and there are not enough members of staff available to monitor the trim trail at the end of the day for issues such as first aid if it were needed.

We will try to look at ways in which pupils can have more access to the trim trail during the warmer weather.

In the News

It would be good if children could have the opportunity to learn more about current affairs in the news, so that they have more awareness of what is going on in the world around them. Is this something that could be addressed in the curriculum?

Another great idea, we will be setting up a news board somewhere in school to prompt discussion for pupils. This was something that happened in classed a few years ago, but as the demands of curriculum have become greater there has been less time for raising awareness of the world around us, including local information. We will seek to offer News slots in Circle time once each half term/ during show and tell time or at the beginning of the school day, where possible.

Sports Activities/ Clubs

There is a good range of clubs for pupils to attend and we seem to be very successful in many competitive sports, but how is the school ensuring that pupils are being given the opportunity to access more unusual sports?

Staff have been accessing Games training delivered by the Derby Schools Sports Partnership, so that lessons are more demanding and focussed. In addition to this teachers have also been given the opportunity to sign up for a wider range of PE training over the coming two terms. This should lead to an improved range of sports skills being taught in KS1 and KS2.

Our school PE co-ordinator is also happy to access different appropriate sports opportunities for children and would appreciate ideas/ feedback. Please watch this space.

Next meeting to be held: Weds 7th January 2015 at 9.05am.