

Parents' Forum Minutes 26.4.17

Attended: Ellie Burt (Year 2 and Year 1) , Debs Parks (Year 4), Sally McMillan (Year 2 and Rec) , Clare Ragdale (Rec), Shaun McCartney (Year 4), Anna Jones (Assistant Headteacher KS1)

Apologies from: Ciaran Dodd (Year 5 and Year 3) , Petya Ignatova (Rec) , Amanda Walker (Year 1), Pam Gregson (Year 3)

Spring Progress Reports

For parents who had been in the meetings the Spring reports were helpful and they like the section on progress and attainment being added from the Spring term, so that there is a bit more information from the December one.

We discussed whether partners also liked format- as explained that some parents had been in to see their class teacher as were worried about the attainment section or confused about the progress being good when attainment isn't.

Parents suggested could the parents evenings for the Autumn term be moved to a bit later for all the classes apart from Reception so that the initial consultation was at a time when teachers could give a more accurate explanation of where pupil is currently working, rather than using it as more of a settling in meeting as we do at the moment?

Is there any way that the report could this be emailed out if possible or whether we could look at more ways in which parents could be engaged/ informed of successes/ progress over the year electronically?

Could we look at Class Dojo so that parents could be informed or have snapshots of pupils work?

The difference between progress and attainment was not very clear for some parents.

Could the progress and attainment have an example of a child so that parents can see what this means? Could the progress and attainment section be colour coded with red, amber, green?

For new year group meetings could we just add a bit about the progress and attainment and what this means when we have parents in this term, that way we don't have to have a separate meeting to explain it?

Parents from the forum really liked and understood the format, but acknowledged that this might be because they had already seen the sheet and discussed it during the forum so knew what the different sections meant.

Catering

School has its Food For Life Assessor coming in in July- we are currently in our second year of the accreditation as a Bronze School and are working towards Silver Status by increasing the organic foods provision in school meals and by increasing the opportunities in cooking education through whole class sessions with Mr Goodwin. Feedback from the cooking for classes in Year 2 linked with the Mexico topic was really positive- both Sally and Ellie said that their children had talked non-stop about Mexican Food Day, where pupils had made tortillas, salsa dip and guacamole.

The next big theme week for catering is for National Sandwich Week- we are going to be running a competition for pupils to design their own sandwich and the winning entry from each class will be offered as an option for lunch over the Sandwich week in June.

Government guidelines on trying to reduce puddings in school have come out- Mr Goodwin has already discussed with Food Council the option of moving from a daily cooked pudding to have two or three days where a yoghurt and fruit bar is offered instead (currently yoghurt and fruit are already offered daily as an alternative to the main pudding, and Mr Goodwin follows the strict guidelines as to reducing the amount of sugar intake for pupils within school meals for example by using bananas to sweeten the brownies rather than sugar etc).

Handwriting:

Parents have noticed pupils improvements in writing,

Comments about handwriting in the reading diaries

Making sure that all classes are sharing are in the reading diaries.

Reading diaries:

We are going to trial reading diaries that last the whole year in infants.

Pages for reading books that the children do at home at the back? Term dates in the front of the diary?

'My Money' Financial management theme week: 20th June to 24th June

Parents loved the idea of pupils learning about where money comes from and where it goes to. Mrs Jones has asked if parents might be able to come in and talk to the children about how they manage finances and what careers they have chosen and the pathway they have taken to get there (linking to Enterprise work).

Could we extend this work into more of an official Enterprise week? Clare said that her older children had been given experience of enterprise challenge at school- where they had to work out the materials they needed, spend the money and then make and sell them. Cakes, felt keyrings, gingerbread man. Could we do the Virgin Money Fiver Challenge?

Entrance/ Exit to school

Before and After School Club for Autumn 2017

Clare asked about the question raised in the previous Parents' Forum meeting about the concerns raised over the entrance to school and how busy it can get on the pathway through the side gates. Mrs Jones fed back that Mrs Gerver had been made aware of the concerns but that currently there are not sufficient funds to widen the pathway and there is not currently a safe alternative entrance or exit for pupils from another point on the premises. With the school working towards providing its own before and after school club with a separate building to be purchased for this club to be held in and new gate to be put in from Autumn 2017 there are no funds available for any other major works this coming year.

Shaun asked if the idea is that once a new building is eventually purchased would this space be available to be rented out for other clubs etc e.g. holiday clubs? Mrs Jones explained that this is something that school will be looking at once we have finally got the finances in place for the building to be put in place. The club may start in the hall or in a classroom at the beginning of the academic year until everything is in place.

Ellie asked if perhaps we could put a notice in the school newsletter about coming in and out and checking for pushchairs and walking on the correct side in and out of the gate to reduce the risk of accidents?

FOMPS- Sally asked for ideas about spreading the word about signing up for the Summer Fair which is on a Saturday in July.

Help on the day is worrying for the parents running the FOMPS if they don't know what is happening? Some members of the Forum asked if there is a list of stalls that are going to be there?

The new FOMPS team have tried to upgrade some of the activities on offer at the fairs, e.g. new Hoopla games were designed and made for the Xmas fair and some new ones have also been made for the Summer fair. They have also tried to add other activities such as Soccer stars goal shooting, which we have had in previous years and that have been successful.

Facebook request for help on the FOMPS page was sent out by Sally but, even though asked for help- out of 194 followers none have offered help so far. The team really need support. They had asked for people to sign up for specific time slots so that they didn't have to stay for the whole event, but still no offers.

Is there any way that school/ Mrs Gerver could help in Raising awareness of the FOMPS team at events, so that parents know who do they need to talk to if they want to get involved e.g. just at the end of the event asking the Chairs to come and say hello to everyone and then perhaps talking about the next event so that parents can put it in their diaries? Also, thanks to Sally and Katie B and the impact that they put into running events like the Easter Bingo, which parents and pupils really enjoyed. Often people forget the running around that has to be done to organise these events before they happen.

Some ideas from the Forum about getting more parents engaged in helping out:

Could each class have their own stall so that parents could sign up to help out at their children's stall?

Could we have an Ice cream stall?

Could the Gymnastics Club have a routine to show for people to come and watch?

Could there be a sign- up sheet for stalls outside school at the end of the day a couple of weeks before the event so that parents can sign up for stalls on the way out of school at the end of the day? Staff could then remind the pupils that the sign-up sheet will be there for them to get their grown -ups to sign.

Thinking about how to get parents and staff to come to meetings- could FOMPS hold their meetings at school on the nights that we have Full Governors meetings for example, so that school is already open for one event and then FOMPS and parents could meet in the hall? Or could we advertise the meeting dates on the school website so that parents know when and where to meet? Could we mention FOMPS meetings on a Friday in whole school assembly for parents who attend to pass on to their friends?

Meeting finished : 10.15am