

Parents' Forum Minutes 23.3.16 at 9.05am

Attended: Sally McMillan, Ellie Burt, Shaun McCartney, Rishika Mahajan, Anna Jones, Rebecca Lockhart, Pam Gregson.

Apologies: Ciaran Dodd, Jessie Moore and Amanda Walker.

New 8.45am start- feedback from parents was overwhelmingly positive. Children are calmer, the dropping off in the morning is now a lot easier. Possible worry about a coach that was trying to get down the drive at the same time as children coming in the other day, but this is an unusual event.

Anti-bullying leaflet for parents- first draft, plus ideas for the child/ parent friendly behaviour leaflet. Parents were very positive about this, AJ explained that this has come about from parent comments about whether we could have a guide that shows clearly what to do about bullying. SM asked if there was a way to make the title of the document more positive sounding, but AJ explained that the document had to be clear for parents so that they know what it is about and that it is a link to the Anti-Bullying work we have completed in November.

Olympics Week:

Olympics week menu from Mr Goodwin- ideas for different countries shared and themes for Carnival day on the final day of Olympics week. All classes will have an opportunity to take part in either a salsa band workshop or a steel pan band workshop.

Ideas for Olympics week- Sally Mc to see if her cousin Jo Pavey (British long distance runner/ Olympian) might be able to get involved/ even send a video message to the school, Pam G suggested we make sure we use the 2012 advert about Olympians as children all working towards their goal from when they were little, to remind children about perseverance, as AJ suggested we would like to make the week about raising aspirations for the children and helping them to share their goals for the future. We also discussed how school will be linking work on Olympics and Paralympics to British Values, and Rebecca L asked if we had thought about doing some work on the Deaf Olympics, as this is not included in the Paralympics, but is a standalone event- she may be able to get us some links to people that could come in to talk to the children.

Parents mentioned the opportunities to get staff involved, sharing their skills and talents outside school if there is a particular sport that they are involved in, so that the children can see what sport means to adults in school.

We thought about the idea of giving children the opportunities to expand their ideas of jobs that they might be able to do in the future as well, in terms of showing them people who have become successful in a certain field because they have gone into

something that they are passionate about (starting with the Olympics and moving on to other fields e.g. displays in classroom etc).

Gardening- how to get parents/ families involved?

Pam G suggested the idea of grandparents being asked to get involved with the gardening, AJ agreed that this would link with the new national Grandparents week that the Food For Life Partnership have started, as Mr Goodwin had already suggested this as well.

Rebecca L suggested that perhaps an opportunity to come in on a weekend, e.g. a Sunday would be a good idea, as parents are often working or busy during the week, AJ to discuss with Mrs Gerver as to whether this could be arranged for one weekend in the Summer term as a one-off special day to move the beds for the gardening club and Shaun Mc suggested we try to develop more links with the allotment society next door to school.

Reminder of changes to the SATS test for KS1 and KS2 for parents.

Leaflet from DfE regarding the changes to SATs, this is a reminder of the information we gave out in our information sessions to parents before the Spring parents evenings.

Parents raised worry about the level of knowledge that children and staff are now meant to have on the grammar side of the curriculum and how will we ensure that pupils are still given an opportunity to develop their creativity? The impact of the curriculum on the amount of reading time pupils get in school, particularly in the juniors has been felt by parents, especially when for some parents there is not much time during the week to read with their children- could there be more time built into each day/ week for children to be able to read in their class e.g. in the morning as one of the morning activities for example.

Rebecca L asked if we have many parents volunteering to hear readers in class, AJ explained that there are only a few who come regularly. Also, the volunteers who currently run Parents' Workshop are having to give up, so if any parents know of people who might be able to help please let us know. Sally Mc said that she might be able to offer some help from September if needed.

Feedback on the updated school website.

AJ asked parents to have a look at the updated school website, explaining that Mrs Powell has been working with Noel Baker School to redesign the site and make it more appealing and promote the school more. Parents were very happy that there are lots of photos of children on the homepage now, as this is a really positive impression being given of the school.

AOB

The announcement this week that all schools will have to convert to academy status- Ellie B asked about the possible impact of academisation for MPS. Parents all agreed that they are worried about what this will mean for pupils and staff, especially when the school is already doing a good job. AJ explained that the current government proposals have already caused enough concern and a government petition has had almost 120,000 signatures, so it will be debated in parliament. This is a long term process over 6 years, the school will take their time to make the right choice for the pupils, parents and staff and are waiting for further clarification.

Signing in book for late arrivals- could the book that parents/ adults need to sign be labelled a bit more clearly, as it is difficult to find. Also, one incident last week where a grandparent dropped off, the class teacher happened to be coming along the corridor and said they would take the child down to class, but their grandparent hadn't signed them into school. How do we guarantee that children have been signed in? AJ said she will raise this with the office and remind staff to just check that the child has been signed in before taking them to class.

Update on the fitness club proposed by Derby NHS Livewell team- AJ explained that the impact of staff and parents asking that children who are overweight/ obese not being identified/ singled out for the club has meant that the Livewell team have said that they will not be able to help us unless we can identify the percentage of pupils who would fit their child weight management criteria. AJ has put the club on hold until the summer term when we can organise something in school that would be more suitable for our pupils, where they can attend without feeling singled out because of any weight issues.

At the Education Show during the weekend there was a company sharing a new fitness/ nutrition programme that schools can purchase at a one-off price , which can be used for in class work or for a before/ after school club. The programme includes exercise sessions, healthy eating recipes, nutritional advice and links to a website with videos to support delivery of the materials. The programme has been running successfully in the Netherlands and has just launched in the UK in the past fortnight. The cost of the programme would be approximately 400 euros. Parents have suggested that this would be a great impact on pupils and they would be more than happy to do a fundraising day where children brought in a pound or a contribution.

Meeting finished: 9.55am.