

Minutes from Parents Forum 23.1.19

Attended: E Burt (Year 4, Year 1) , S McMillan (Year 2, Year 4) , D Parkes (Year 6) , H Smith (Year 2, Rec)

A Jones (Assistant Headteacher KS1) and Kate Halliday (Assistant Headteacher KS2)

Sports Day Key Stage 2

Mrs Halliday came to forum to discuss with parents KS2 Sports Days to think about what is working and what would be even better for this year's Sports Day.

Currently: KS2 Sports Day runs on one day- 240 pupils to get through the sports day

120 pupils am (lower juniors 9.30-11.30am)

120 pupils pm (upper juniors 1.30- 3.20pm)

Factors to consider: Weather (heat) or rain

Morning slot longer than afternoon

Points for activities are given to the pupils.

Points collected and totalled.

Highest scoring boy and girl get certificate in Friday assembly.

Students from Murray Park (20 students) come to help run the activity stations. Activities are run for all pupils over the course of the sports day across 10 stations.

Heats run before the final day and staff allocate races for all pupils (even those who are not in during the heats). First and second from each house get put into the sprints, rest get put in the relay races (3rd and 4th pupils). About 48 pupils in Upper Juniors get a race but about 12 pupils do not get a race. Mixed relays last year.

Points competed for in house teams for the House Cup.

Points from the lower juniors added to upper juniors to get final scores.

Issues or ideas from forum: Feedback from some parents is that they are worried that pupils who have not got races may be singled out, as some pupils not getting a chance to race in either sprints or relays. Would it be possible for the pupils to be given a choice as to whether they want to take part and if not could they add the pupils to a race that they want to do? Or could there be more races to enable all pupils to take part?

Feedback from the lower juniors parents were that the Murray Park students last summer were excellent in the morning. By the afternoon feedback from some parents were that some of the upper junior pupils were not engaged so much with the activities and that there was a bit of inconsistency in the way some of the Murray Park students were leading the activity stations- is this because the students leading the activities were exhausted from being outside all day, could the activities be changed/ more challenge added for the Upper Juniors?

Lower Juniors

Rotations work well for the lower junior pupils

Putting siblings together for the rotations work well.

10 activities- sprint, hurdles, jumping, throwing.

Briefing the students on changes to the stations could cause extra time for the swaps if stations were changed for the upper juniors as it takes a long time to prepare them in the morning before lower juniors start their Sports Day.

Upper Juniors

Could the rotations be revamped/ adapted for the upper juniors? Add more challenge.

Could the pupils have some sort of activities that added the opportunity to dribble for hockey skills or football skills etc? E.g. Basketball shoot out, dribbling for hockey skills, football shoot out.

Each activity needs to be something that can be completed within 3-4 minutes.

10-12 pupils in each group can make logistics of getting all the pupils through the activity at a station quite challenging.

Sprint, hurdles work well as activities at the different stations- element of competition makes it exciting for pupils, so these is stations that do not need changing.

Working for track events- sprints, relay work well. Just need to think about how all pupils can be involved. Last year we thought about whether a long distance event could be organised for pupils who do longer runs such as Park Runs or love the Daily Mile- if some pupils did this round the outside of the field whilst the other races are being run would this counteract the 12 pupils who currently do not get put into sprints or relays?

Feedback from parents is that the MPS positive attitude of teaching the pupils the aspects of competition and perseverance is something that they are keen to see encouraged.

Feedback from forum is that they would like to have tea and coffee provided, but the worry of that is that we have not got enough staff to man a tea stall, particularly as one TA has to stand by the gate for safeguarding. Are we missing a potential fundraising opportunity for school- Could we ask parents to support for tea and coffee?

It is hard for parents to see which house each child is competing for. Mrs Branch was investigating house colours for PE tops so that pupils could be wearing this for the PE session. Or could we ask that pupils wear T-shirt for your house for Sports Day to make pupils feel more of a team?

Could the sports day start or finish a little bit earlier or later to incorporate more races?

Could the Sports Day be split perhaps into two days rather than altogether?

Flags and cheering- making more of a house spirit, but these were not out in the upper junior sports day last year, was this just an oversight?

Is there any way that Mrs Branch could be released so that she could help with Upper Junior Sports Day to increase the skill level of the stations etc? Or could we look at investing in Derby SSP coming to support Upper Junior Sports Day?

Could the House Captains be involved in the pupil voice for how to improve Sports Days?

Ideas to help other Extend track events or different morning?

1.20-3.20pm (10 minutes difference)- by the time pupils have got changed and come back down it makes the day much longer already. Could pupils perhaps bring their belongings down with them and put them in a class pile, so that at the end of the day they just go to their class station, pick up their belongings and get dismissed from the field instead of the playground?

Sports Day lunch day event for pupils, so that they could bring a picnic or catering team could offer a sandwich only option that day for pupils so that lunch service is quicker and afternoon Upper Juniors Sports Day can start earlier.

Should we think about investing in a central gazebo for the Sports Day events to give shade to pupils and parents as a long term aim?

Actions: Mrs Halliday to meet with pupils to gather pupil voice and meet with Mrs Branch to develop Upper Junior Activities. Mrs Halliday to come back to parents' forum next meeting.

End of term reports

All parents were happy with the reports that came out at the end of Autumn term in December. No issues raised.

Lunches- Feedback for Catering Manager

Are the portions getting smaller? Parents are noticing that the portion control is getting smaller?

Is the food running out at the end of service? Pupils are worried about the portion control as some of the children are coming home hungry and are noticing that younger pupils may be getting more than they are in terms of items such as meatballs etc.

Action: Mrs Jones to raise this issue with Mrs Hutchinson at Food Council meeting next Weds. Feedback to Parents' Forum in next meeting.

Behaviour Policy

Mrs Jones shared the child friendly behaviour policy and the curriculum aims for parents to look at.

Parents felt it was good that School Council have been involved in checking through the child friendly version of the Behaviour Policy that they helped to write in 2016, as some of the pupils have discussed this at home.

One parent concerned about the impact of pupils who get orange cards in the afternoon having to wait to the next day to miss their playtime, but Mrs Jones explained that for junior pupils or for any cards issued after the infant afternoon playtime there is no other opportunity for pupils to miss a break other than the next morning. The consequences of getting an orange card have to be consistent across school and forum members were impressed that this procedure works so well, with not many pupils getting repeat orange cards. Pupils who receive repeat cards may be put onto a behaviour plan with adjustments made to their breaktimes if they are not considered safe to be out with other pupils for a fixed number of days.

Homework

Challenge from TT Rockstars, mixed grid for challenging pupils. Parents asked for ideas of how to extend times tables homework if pupils already know their tables. Mrs Halliday gave a list of suggestions to support and referred parents to the games added to TT Rockstars such as challenge the teacher. Pupils also encouraged to take a mixed times tables grid home to practice so that they can develop fluency and speed in answering tables questions.

Curriculum Development- from School Development Plan

Mrs Jones updated forum members on the work done so far this academic year on re-developing our school topic curriculum for foundation subjects. She shared our curriculum aims and noted the change in the focus on preparing pupils to become digital citizens rather than being confident users of ICT. Parents were impressed that we are linking our curriculum aims from the vision work we have done as staff with our topic planning, to ensure that all pupils have a broad and balanced curriculum.

We have worked as staff on our topic planning for Autumn 2 and Spring 1 and this week on Friday we will be focusing on redeveloping our Spring 2 and Summer 1 planning. Staff will be given time to look at developing assessment opportunities within topic planning and streamlining content (re-evaluating what we need to teach as part of the national curriculum 2014) so that we have enough time and opportunity to teach pupils in a more engaging/ successful way-particularly supporting pupils who are working below or above expected age related expectations in foundation subjects.

AOB: Parents Forum members wanted to congratulate the school on being voted number 1 state funded primary school in Derbyshire in the Real Schools Guide for 2018.

Next meeting: Wednesday 27th February 2019 at 9.05am