

Parents' Forum 2017-2018

First meeting of the academic year: 3.10.17 at 9.05am

Attended: A Jones (Assistant Headteacher KS1), Petya Ignatova (Year 1), Ellie Burt (Year 3 and Year 2), Debbie Parks (Year 5), Clare Ragsdale (Year 1), Fozia Khan (Year 4), Kamaljh Dosanjh (Rec), Harvinder Kaur (Rec), Rowan Chamberlain (Year 1), Lydia Brown (Year 6 and Year 2).

Apologies: Sally McMillan, Pam Gregson, Amanda Ramage

Introduction to Parents' Forum, role of member and expectations.

All current members of the forum shared their positive experiences of being on the forum last year- being able to be part of the life of the school, to help lead change (e.g. reports, reading diaries, ideas and feedback for theme weeks, ideas and feedback on parents information sessions , feedback on menus for lunchtimes etc).

Minutes from today's meeting:

Mrs Jones shared this year's priorities- reading and maths mastery. She explained that these are areas that the school is currently doing favourably in compared to national data, but that we want to increase the number of pupils achieving greater depth/ exceeding in all year groups by developing our questioning, vocabulary, exposure to more opportunities for reasoning in both subjects.

End of Year Reports to parents:

In the summer term we changed the final report sent to parents after feedback from the forum, suggestions of formats shared from other schools and work with staff.

Feedback from all the members of the forum was extremely positive today about the new format. Some of the comments were as follows:

I really love the new format- Much easier and clearer to read (Lydia).

Easier to read, more information to parents that is relevant to your child (Ellie)

A4 format is a great success, parents really took notice when pupils came of school with the A4 envelopes- gave greater prestige to the report (Debbie)

Seems to have more information in it now and much easier to read (Fozia)

One of the issues school had this time with the reports was getting back the return slips- we had sent home a smaller black and white copy of the report to be signed and returned to school but not all of the parents sent back the signed copies. Next year we will be having a separate sheet for parents to comment and sign on so that we actually get the slips back. Rowan asked if it might be possible for parents to receive a text message before or after the reports go out to remind them to return the signed comment slips, Mrs Jones explained that there is a cost implication for texts that might prevent us from doing this (currently 10p per text we send).

Parent Information Evenings: Phonics and Reading KS1 and EYFS October 2017

Mrs Jones explained that she and Mrs Wildsmith (KS1 Literacy Co-ordinator) are planning to hold our annual phonics parents information session after half term, but that this year we are going to incorporate information about supporting your child with reading , to tie in with this year's school priority of Reading (developing pupils' love of reading and increasing the number of pupils working at 'exceeding/ greater depth' in each year group).

Members of the forum felt this was a good idea and asked if we might be able to give ideas about how to engage boys in reading, and could we explain how the school home reading system works (colours and numbers on the books, what comes after green in the juniors etc), so that they have a clearer idea of where their child is along with their reading.

Ellie asked if we might be able to ensure that the dates for these information sessions get flagged up on the front page of the school website, so that parents don't forget, as she and some other people she knows managed to miss the Maths evening in the summer because they had forgotten the exact date and other events had been booked in. Also, would it be possible for us to include contact details at the bottom of letters for who parents should ask if they are unable to attend a meeting or training session, so that it is easier to get the information you have missed.

Mrs Jones explained that wherever possible we will always make sure that the office has a copy of what has been sent out to parents, but that also electronic copies of powerpoint slides etc are put on the school website for parents to access after the events.

Pupil Premium

Mrs Jones explained that MPS have had two external audits in the past few months- the first from externally trained auditors (Pupil premium audit trained Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher) from Derby City Council to audit our use of pupil premium funding. This was a really positive audit in July, where staff and SLT were able to show effective use of pupil premium money to support achievement, improve attendance, support pupils socially and emotionally through effective nurture work and data analysis.

Our pupil premium action plan for 2017-2018 is currently being finalised ready to be posted on the school website.

Mrs Jones explained to parents the impact of this funding for pupils, and parents felt that school was using the money sensibly to ensure pupils accessed extra-curricular opportunities, were settled and ready to learn (through having nutritious breakfast), benefited from having quieter environment to learn or play in for breaks and lunchtimes and appreciated that a large part of our pupil premium funding enables pupils and parents to access emotional support through Mrs Coyle and Mrs Stacey.

Peer Review

The second external audit/ check we have had in the past few months has been a process called 'Peer Review' which took place in school last week. This process is based on a mini-ofsted style appraisal of an area of school practice by trained Headteachers and SLT from other schools who come in to see what the school has been working on and act as a critical friend to school. Mrs Gerver had asked the two headteachers and two assistant heads who came to school to look at the work we

had done over last academic year to improve writing attainment in school, following a dip in our KS2 results for 2016. We were pleased to be able to show that we have increased significantly in our results for both KS2 and KS1 in 2017, with MPS being named as the second most improved school in Derby City. We also achieved the highest phonics pass mark in the authority this year (97%).

The Head and her team who visited the school were really impressed with the new 'Cold, Warm, Hot' process of assessment for writing and felt that our pupils had very high standards of behaviour, presentation (including handwriting) and that we had a huge bank of evidence to show.

Extra-Curricular Activities:

Members have asked about whether they have missed the latest clubs timetable information for this term? Mrs Jones explained that letters for individual clubs have been given out to pupils, on a 'take one if you are interested' basis, but that a whole school club list hasn't gone out yet, due to the fact that the new breakfast and after school club are having to use the hall at the moment which is impacting on some of the clubs we would usually offer.

Parents asked if it would be possible to let them know about all the clubs that have gone out, as sometimes pupils may not take a letter because they feel pressured by their friends not taking one.

Mrs Gerver has suggested that we might be able to add a sports letters section to the website so that current term's letters can be added for extra-curricular opportunities. She will speak to Mrs Powell, School Business Manager about this.

Breakfast and After School Club

Parents all stated that they are really happy that we now have this provision on site at MPS. They responded to the questionnaire that went out to parents last week about the type of provision for INSET or holiday clubs that they might like for their children and asked if we might be able to put together a sample timetable of what it might look like- could these insets and holiday weeks be themed to help motivate children to want to come? Mrs Jones to pass this suggestion to Mrs Bramall (Club Manager) and Mrs Powell (School Business Manager).

Catering

Mr Goodwin came in to introduce himself to Parents' Forum. He explained that he welcomes contributions from parents re the menus at school and he will ask for feedback from the forum members at the next meeting for the new menu.

For next meeting's agenda

Next theme week is from 13th to 17th November- it will be based on anti-bullying, cyber bullying and mental health and wellbeing.

We will discuss the November theme week at the next Parents' Forum meeting.

Thanks to all who attended today's meeting.

Next meeting: Tuesday 31st October 2017 at 9.05am