

Parents' Forum Minutes 31.10.17 at 9.05am

Attended: A Jones (Assistant Headteacher KS1), K Halliday (KS2), Pam Gregson (Year 3), Debbie Parks (Year 5), Clare Ragsdale (Year 1), Lydia Brown (Year 6 and Year 2).

Apologies: Rowan Chamberlain (Year 1)

Raising Aspirations

Kate Halliday (AHT KS2) came in give feedback from Aspirations Survey for KS2.

Girls tend to outperform boys in writing and reading and boys tend to outperform girls in Maths. Our school follows the national trend.

Registered with the Primary Futures programme, and have completed the first national survey of what they would like their future jobs to be (up to four choices per child, numbered in priority). She shared some examples of the types of jobs pupils would like to do and then we will be looking at how we can raise aspirations over the year- challenging gender stereotypes, asking adults to come in to share information about their jobs. Also developing aspirations through a visit to the university (e,g, could be G&T pupils or to support pupils who do not come from background where parents have been to university).

Continued link with Toyota for pupils (6th February- a class worth of pupils will be selected from KS2).

Links with big companies such as Rolls Royce still continuing.

Homework club by invitation from Year 4 and Year 5 to be run by Mrs Halliday (3 weeks boost to help them to have access to resources e.g. tablets, paper, pens etc). This should give the children support to organise themselves to complete homework. Growth mindset (you can do this without parents having to organise you). Then leave them to work independently and monitor. Three weeks of each half term, probably with the

World of Work week- four days 19th to 22nd June 2018

Developing the work we did for My Money Week this year. Developing awareness of enterprise, connections with the world of work through visitors/ presentations etc. Building an understanding of what steps are involved in moving towards careers. We would like to build a real cross section of large corporate businesses, medium or smaller businesses, independent, working from home etc. Mrs Halliday asked if forum felt the best way to ask

Forum members watched 'Inspire the Future- redraw the balance' video clip from the Primary Futures website about raising awareness of stereotypes.

<https://www.inspiringthefuture.org/redraw-the-balance/>

We looked at some of the jobs the children want to do when they grow up. There were a wide range of jobs mentioned by pupils and it is clear to see that pupils are heavily influenced by people they have met that do particular jobs. The influence of TV (advertising or films, famous people) was also apparent. Infant pupils will be doing the survey this half term as well, so that we can monitor the types of careers pupils want to go into and see if there are any links we could make for our theme week in the summer, plus work on addressing gender stereotyping in some professions.

Could we develop links with JCB Academy? NHS? Could we be flexible with people coming in to school so that they could come in for an assembly or a class visit?

Mr Halliday explained that she and Mrs Jones will be working on developing a World of Work week for the Summer 2017. Any support from parents would be most appreciated, details to follow in the Spring/ early Summer.

Mental Health and Wellbeing Week 13th to 17th November 2017.

Mrs Jones explained that this year's theme week will incorporate a number of theme days, including our antibullying and cyberbullying work. Each theme day will launch with an assembly and then year groups have designed activities for their pupils based on the day's theme.

Monday 13th November: Anti-bullying Day

Tuesday 14th November: Cyber bullying day- responsible digital citizens. Empowering them to know what to do to keep her safe. Pupils will be reminded of our policy to keep safe: Infants pupils will be working on Minimise screen, tell a parent, report (blow the whistle).

Junior pupils will be building on this: Sending Messages (Year 3), mobile phones and prank/ silent calls (Year 4), gaming and bullying (Year 5), social media- pictures and photos- giving permission, your digital footprint (Year 6).

Wednesday 15th November: REAL TIME activities- children will be given the opportunity to do an activity led by a member of staff. They will be asked to choose three options from the list of activities on offer and then they will be given one of those activities to do on the actual morning. It will be in mixed group of children from Years 1 to 6, so that children get a chance to work with and develop friendships with pupils from different year groups in school. This will give the children a chance to think about making sure that they have hobbies or activities to do out of school to help with a balanced lifestyle.

Thursday 16th November: Developing Resilience Day (part of our introduction to developing a growth mindset). Awareness of mental health and wellbeing. What is it, why is it important to have a can do attitude, picking yourself up and trying again when something is hard.

Friday 17th November: Children in Need Day and Kindness Day. There will be a bake sale in school for pupils, collections for Pudsey and a cake sale after school for any remaining cakes. Pupils and staff will be encouraged to perform a small act of kindness for someone else in school during the day.

Developing our school community

REAL TIME session- developing links with other children in different year groups.

Buddy Scheme: Pam mentioned that in her sister's school they have started a buddy scheme matching Year 6 with a Reception pupil. Children have a link to an older pupil- making older pupils more aware of the children in the younger classes. It looks like this is something similar to our REAL time idea and our reading buddy scheme. The children in that school met the new reception pupils in the Summer term before they started in Reception so that the pupils have a friendly face when they come in. Parents in forum were not aware that we have linked classes in different year groups for reading, following a successful trial between Year 2 (Owls) and Year 6 (6H) in the Summer term. Could this go out to parents alongside more of a celebration or information about how we are working as a school to celebrate reading this year?

We already currently have Mini leaders, peer mentors, prefects etc at school. Can we think about making parents more aware of what we do in school to develop links for pupils with other year groups on a future Newsletter, as we are doing a lot more things than parents are aware of?

Ideas for engaging parents- in school trips as they have to be cancelled if not paid for by the cancellation period.

Letters and reminders are currently sent out and the letters that go out do have a clear guideline about how we will have to cancel if there are insufficient funds available to pay for it.

However we are struggling to pay for some trips, as we don't always receive enough payments. In the past school has subsidised trips from the school budget, but we no longer have the funds to do this so for example, this week the Year 4 Roman Day has been cancelled as the deadline has not been met for the payments. The school cannot sustain paying out cancellation charges for trips as these can be 50% to 100% of the cost of the trip if cancelled too close to the date of the trip. For example, we were £100 short of money for the Romans day.

Mrs Halliday asked: Do we need to inform parents earlier? Could we give the parents an opportunity to pay in instalments for the activity/ trip rather than all in one go?

We would love to reinstate the trips to the theatre for the pantomime, but with the shortfalls for trips for curriculum this is proving really difficult to justify, as we could not sustain a shortfall in payments for tickets that could cost £16 each per pupil.

Forum asked- Do we need to give a breakdown of the costs for trips for the coming year so that parents can pay earlier and they know what is coming up over the year?

We have always tried to set the deadline just after a pay day. Does this work? Parents felt this is a good idea. Could we send out a general letter for all parents to explain that we have had to cancel one trip and explain why. Reminder about how important this is to give the children the chance to go to the trip.

Is there a way that the Scopay system could send out reminders if parents haven't paid? E.g. text or email? Mrs Jones to ask Miss Evans if this is something we would be able to do.

PGL- could we give parents an opportunity to start paying earlier for this trip when parents are in Year 4? E.g. this would give the chance for parents to pay £25 chunks rather than £50 chunks.

Pam asked Could parents be given the opportunity for parents to set up a standing order to contribute to school trips? (build up a reserve of money via Scopay to pay for different trips and events).

Debbie and Pam mentioned that although Forum know that Dressing up days are linked with the topics some parents are concerned with the fact that children are dressing up when it is cold e.g. Greeks Day for Year 6 today. Mrs Halliday explained that the events day match the time of the year when the pupils do that particular topic, so it would not be possible to change them.

Parents asked- Could the trips go on the curriculum newsletter or the front of school timetable? Glue the reminder into the diary for payments for trips? Could children be reminded to write a note in their diary about the trip money being owed rather than a letter so that it is more personal?

Parent Information Sessions for this half term:

Next E Safety information session is on 7th November at 2.30pm. Have parents been talking about whether they are coming? What is the feedback from parents about this session, as we have usually held it after school between 5pm and 6pm, but found that not many parents actually came, despite school receiving a lot of confirmation slips saying that parents would be attending.

Our next Phonics information session for parents with children in the infants is on 14th November at 2.30pm.

Parents' Forum page on the website:

Please could members write a short statement about themselves and why they have joined Parents' Forum for the website and email it to Mrs Jones along with a picture you would be happy to have on the school website? If you need to see examples please have a look at the samples from last year that are still on the website. If you could email these before the next forum meeting this would be great and then we can look at them at the next meeting before they go on the website.

Next meeting will be on Tuesday 9th January 2018 at 9.05am