

Parents Forum Minutes

Friday 2nd September 2017

Present: Please see enclosed list of parents.

Liz Walker (Chair/Governor), Sue Rainbow (Deputy Head-Standing in for MB), Rachel McKeown (Pastoral SLT) and Clare Timms (Staff/Governor).

Apologies from: Nicola McDonald, Matt Brookes.

2/3 Review of minutes: See Action Plan.

4 Homework:

Some parents voiced concerns about the types of homework given out this term in Year 5, being largely of a creative nature while some parents would prefer to see more homework related to current Maths/ English lessons, to enable them to support their children.

SR commented that homework is always a contentious subject and it is difficult to please everyone.

A parent had also enquired about using on-line learning programmes.

SR replied that “Reading Eggs” is being used throughout the school and there is a Maths evening planned (21st November), which will introduce an on-line Maths Programme.

5 Clubs

Chris Stevens (Governor) recently sent out a survey to all parents. A working party of governors has been set up to investigate and analyse the results of this survey.

There was some discussion about “Clubs Complete”. It was noted that they are now OFSTED registered but parents commented that occasionally advertised activities do not happen. LW advised parents to speak directly to “Clubs Complete”.

Parents also commented that they are very happy with the current Breakfast Club, which is run by the school.

6 Earwig

Sometimes parents find they are tagged in photos, in which their children do not appear.

RM commented that it is still early days for Earwig, and really it is an added extra. SR agreed, adding that she would rather be teaching than worrying about photographing every child!

7 School Dinners

Parents, particularly of Foundation children, expressed some concerns about how children are monitored while eating their meals. RM assured them that, at the beginning of the year, staff stay in the hall until all children are settled with their food. The lunch time supervisors and Year 6 dinner mentors also help to keep the younger children on track, encouraging them to eat properly.

It was decided that new parents should be informed about what happens in the dining hall in order to re-assure them.

It was agreed that it is more difficult for staff to monitor how much of their packed lunches children were eating.

8 Fairer system for selecting children for school events

The original system of selecting by “First come, first served” was deemed to be unfair. This has now been replaced by a system where replies must be in by a certain deadline, after which names will be picked randomly.

9 Second Hand Uniform

LW stated that WASPS have masses of second hand uniform which Laura Cherry (parent) has offered to sort out ready to sell in the Shelter on the last day of this half term. (19th October), running stalls both in the morning and in the afternoon.

Parents asked if WASPS could email an order form, so that parents can order in advance. JE to organise this.

Any Other Business

1 Holiday Club: Parents asked if school considered running a Holiday Club. The reply was that school send out fliers from Hood Park and the local Church about their Holiday Clubs. Also “Clubs Complete” do an assembly in school about theirs.

2 School Photographs: Parents asked what to do if they missed the deadline for ordering photos- They were advised to contact the company directly.

3 Year Three Information Session

Some parents were very disappointed by this. They had an expectation of a sit-down session, learning how their children were going to be taught in Year 3, but instead just received a document, which could have been emailed, and were unable to speak to the class teachers, who were monopolized by a few parents. Parents reported that the Year 4 session was similar.

It was agreed that SR would speak to MB, who would ensure consistency across the school for future Information Evenings.

4 Clear Communication from Office: Some parents have received notes stating, “Your child needs to bring...” with no specific year group / class mentioned, so parents are unclear which child is being referred to.

SR to pass onto Office.

5 Provision of old shirts to cover clothing in FS: RM said that aprons / T-shirts are available for painting and cooking activities, but it would not be practical to put shirts on children for all activities.

6 Dates: Parents asked if dates AND TIMES of events such as Harvest festival, Christmas plays and Decorations day could be available on the school Web Site.

7 Swimming Policy: Some parents are not aware of the school’s policy on swimming lessons.

It was asked if a letter could go out every year to explain the swimming policy and could it be included on the Web Site?

8 Lunch time clubs: LW said she would update parents on this, following the survey investigation being carried out by governors.

9 Lunch time equipment: Some parents were concerned that the older children were taking all the equipment. A parent offered to donate more footballs to school. JE explained the lunch time supervisors distribute the play equipment and there is a rota in place for use of ball court and goal posts. SR added that comics, colouring, games and magazines are to be made available in the studio at lunch times.

10 Dinner Menu: Old one on the Web site needs updating. Correct menu is available in Reception.

11 Tag Rugby Training: Staff to let parents know when children need their boots. Children involved are selected by P.E. staff, who first ask children to find out who is interested /available for activities offered.

12 New Members for Parents Forum: School to send out an email to any classes no longer represented.

Next Meeting: Friday 26th January 2.00pm