

Parent Forum - minutes 3rd February 2016

Present: Mr Tomson, Mrs Acheson (Y3), Mrs Goodson (F) Mrs Trew (Y2), Mr Mole (governors), Mrs Ghouse (Y1), Mrs Mrs Shenton (Y4), Mrs Siddall (Y6), Mrs Price

Apologies: Mrs Kirkwood (Y5), Mrs Bockmuehl, Mrs Wilde,

Previous minutes: updates and feedback:

The first birthday book has arrived and was very well received in assembly. Thank you. No sweets have come in for birthdays and it seems to be working well.

Agenda Items:

1. Online booking for parents evening. General feeling that it was easy to use and much better than the old system. Bookings seemed to open at a good time. If you have more than one child and book late you may have to wait a long time between appointments. In the past teachers would try and put sibling appointments closer together but this is not possible to do in the new system. It was suggested that parents should be reminded that it is first come first served and parents with more than one child may want to access the system quickly in order to get appointments that work for their family. Overall the system worked.
2. Parent Survey. 48 parents responded which is a response of about a third of all parents - which is very good.

The feedback is completely anonymous - and whilst some of the opinions are very emotive and strongly worded it is difficult for the school to address issues when they do not know who is owning these opinion. The school is hoping that people in the future feel able to bring these issues in person and are willing to hear personal concerns that have come out of the survey. If people wish to bring their concerns to parent forum reps in order to maintain anonymity concerns can be addressed in this way.

The school will bring to the parents attention feedback from the parent survey and news related to people's comments as it becomes relevant throughout the year. Parent forum discussed many of the issues raised in order to help give context to comments.

Overall the school was very pleased with the response to the survey. The survey will take place again next year.

3. Communication. It is very difficult for the school to balance what is too much and what is not enough. The school is aiming for one communication on a Friday and only extras if absolutely necessary. There have been a few difficulties this last term which is partly due to the administrator being only present on one site. School is trying to improve on this. The calendar is being tweaked to improve its appearance and school is trying to keep the calendar and dates on the newsletter up to date. A lot of what the school is doing (such as sporting events) rely on people from outside the school and so school try not to give information until they are sure of things to avoid amendments. School has the view that they would rather do something at short notice than not do something at all. The school is aware that this can lead to

difficulties for working parents. Chinese day was raised as an example of last minute communications that caused problems.

There is an opt in app on the school calendar which will link your phone calendar to the school calendar. This may be a good option for people who are looking for reminders about things such as mufti days and parent assemblies. The school will make sure they understand how this works and provide information on how to do this.

School was reminded that new parents don't always know how school events work and consideration needs to be given as to whether enough description is given to parents about these events.

Praise for the letters about HASSP rugby and the options given about car seats, lifts etc.

4. Phonics: Parents would like more info on Y1 phonics testing. School states that the test is a benchmark assessment that although reported does not form a record of the children and is to help with educating the children and not assessing this. It's a tracking of progress test and children do not need to prepare for the test.
5. Parent Workshops: Foundation parents have asked about a phonics workshop. School is planning to have a phonics workshop for parents some time this term. Some parents would welcome an updated maths methods workshop. Yr 4 will discuss which ones they would like.
6. School Clubs. There was confusion over whether people should pay or book online and in which order. People were disappointed with the provision on the infant site. It seemed to be sport heavy. Mr Tomson highlighted that there is more club variety on the Junior site and there is more staff and the children are able to cope with more. School persists with a termly set up to provide variety and something for everyone. It's not possible with the size of the school to provide a squad type scenario for the younger children. No plan in place to have a resident PE teacher like we had with Mr Mould. This was an opportunity that the school was fortunate to have but there is no Mr Mould type option available at the moment. School has lost some flexibility by using an outside provider. For the size of the school there is a lot on offer. We realise people would like more but there is a limit to the amount of outside activities our size of school can provide.

Invasion sports - it would have been good to explain what this is.

Mr Wood has been very popular with the children and parents.

French lessons have been paused for now as Mrs Chaplain has been on placement at a different school. She is back after half term. KS2 includes a compulsory language component but there is no requirement for KS1. School would like to provide a modern language option for infants as a club or otherwise when the opportunity arises.

7. Concerns from parents that there are spelling and grammar errors in communications from the school.

8. Hot Lunches - people are grateful that there is now some flexibility for the hot lunches but they would still like more flexibility. School is disappointed by the amount of waste that there is in hot lunches. School would like parents to give children who don't like the hot meals a packed lunch to ensure they are well fed.
9. Homework - Parent forum will have a separate meeting to discuss homework queries. Mr Tomson suggests perhaps a learning log workshop can be arranged for parents who are interested to come and find out more.
10. School Gate - concerns that the gate is sometimes closed early and children are worried about being signed in late. This seems unfair to parents who aren't actually arriving late. School will check up on this. If the reception clock says before 9 then kids can be allowed through the door without signing in as late.
11. Selection of HASSP children - schools are being charged with a responsibility to get non sporty kids involved in sport. This may lead to kids being chosen for events that are perceived as not being a natural fit. The school also tries to take an even gender split. Considerations are also made for what content children are missing in school etc.

Next meeting Friday 24th March, 9am on the Infant site.