

Parent Forum Minutes 3rd June 2015

Infant Site

Present: Mr Tomson Mrs Trew (F), Mrs Siddall (4),
Mrs Stevenson Mrs Goodson (1), Mrs Timman (5),
Mrs Clayton (2), Mrs Sampson (6),
Mrs Kirkwood (3), Mrs Brockmuehl (Church),

Apologies: Mrs Lyall (Gov)

1. Actions from Previous Minutes

Assesment - Parent consultations used the new terminology “Emerging, Expected and Exceeding” and included a definition of what these meant. Behind the scenes teachers are still using levels to assess the children and decide which group to put them in, but the government no longer allow the levels to be given out. Teachers should have told parents at these meetings if their child is making good progress or not. The school is working with other schools in the county to come up with a fair system to allow comparisons to be made between schools. Assessment tests take place every half term to get data and to help the children get used to tests.

Learning Apps – parents requested a list of useful apps for home. **ACTION:** Mr Tomson expressed his concern that this might lead parents to believe that the school want children to continue working through the holidays whereas they would prefer them to have a break. Saying this, some websites may be mentioned in the workshops in the autumn. See later.

Handwriting – **ACTION** Mr Tomson has updated the Junior Spelling template to include lines. The infant one is more complicated to change but is in progress.

Workshops – **ACTION** It was decided to hold workshops in the autumn term so that new parents can benefit. There is a whole new curriculum for teaching maths so this will be included.

Parent Feedback – **ACTION** Parents, please take the time to give Ofsted your feedback via www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk. Our entries are years out of date so the school would appreciate it if parents could take some time to fill out the online questionnaire.

Aspire visit Mrs Price provided feedback to the parents in a newsletter

Water fountain – **ACTION** Mrs Price will look in to providing one on the Infant site as part of the next phase of building work.

Open ended homework – some parents like the open ended nature of the learning logs and some do not. Some parents would prefer worksheets. Mr Tomson said that these are unlikely to ever be used as in the school's experience, they put children off learning.

Communication channels – some parents are unsure as to the best way of communicating

2. Website Feedback

Parents like the photos and the calendar and especially being able to link the calendar to theirs.

3. Schoolcomms

The school are leaving Parentmail and moving to Schoolcomms as the package is better. There will be emailing, texting and online payment. **ACTION:** parents need to return their forms with email and phone details or they will not receive any communication.

4. Draft Parent Survey

The draft surveys, both parent and pupil, were given out for feedback. **ACTION:** parent forum reps to send feedback.

5. Any Other Business

Pick up arrangements – Some parents are worried when they send an email changing pick up arrangements and are unsure if it was received. It was suggested that they use “read receipts”. Please do not send an email later in the afternoon and expect it to be read before pick up.

Secondary Transfer Test (11+) – There will be a parents meeting this ½ term re timings etc.

School Meals – The school continues to give feedback to Haddenham about quality and quantity.

Reading – Concern was expressed that children are not encouraged enough to try different genres. Mrs Stevenson & Mr Tomson showed a reading response activity book and explained how children read a library book and then do an activity such as a book review. Sometimes children will present their book reviews to the class which will encourage other children to try that book. Example books used in class are varied. Every registration time the children read a book of their choice. Staff make sure they are seen to be reading to encourage children.

Childcare vouchers – This is being looked in to but is not allowed for some activities.

Toast – Some children have complained about the toast portions at breakfast club. The school assured parents that children just need to ask for more.

Pond Area – Some time ago, this area was acquired for school use. The school have been looking in to developing the area and including decking, shelters, viewing areas. The project is ongoing and should be able to use some money from the ball. Also, in the field an area of tree planting is planned.

Yr 3 Classroom – There has been maintenance issues with the year 3 classroom for some time so one class has been moved in to the hall. Currently year 6 are in there as it is useful for rehearsing their play. Builders were in over half term and it should all be sorted by the autumn term.

Praise – parents praised the **country dancing and Junior music concert**.

Breakfast club – this was also highly praised. Mr Tomson pointed out that we still need more parents to use the breakfast club or it may not be able to continue.

Next Year Reps – All the reps were happy to continue next year. Suggestions were made for a Foundation rep. Jo Goodson will approach some.

Mayda Trew – Year 1

Jo Goodson – Year 2

Karen Clayton – Year 3

Louise Kirkwood – Year 4

Cynthia Siddall – Year 5

Alison Timman - Year 6

Next meeting – Thursday 15th October, 9am at the Infant Site