

Parent Forum Minutes

Date: 04.11.22

Present:

Mrs Wilde- Deputy Headteacher

Mrs Bowman- Yr6 Teacher

Karen Gwynne- Yr 1 Rep

Poppy Smith- Yr 2 Rep

Rachel Miller - Yr 3 Rep

Hannah Young- Yr 5 Rep

Ali Hadley- Yr 6 Rep

1. Apologies: Samantha Rocket (FY Rep) and Ruth Redding (Yr 4 Rep)

2. Positives/thank you feedback from patient reps:

- Mrs Chaplin session writing and spelling workshop on the junior site was really well received. There have been asks for a similar session on the infant site. NW confirmed that this was intended and that a date for this will be confirmed soon.
- Praise and thanks from the FY parents to Mr Jackson, for aiding the children settling well into the school.
- Lots of appreciation for having the face-to-face parents evening reintroduced. Parents pleased to be able to speak to teachers in person and have the opportunity to look through children's books/work.

3. Mufti-days- these used to be held at the end of half term, each term but have not been reinstated following COVID. Previously the Yr 6 children have chosen a charity to which the money raised through mufti-day is given. NW raised a question/concern about asking for explicit amounts of money from families for mufti-day when cost of living is rising. Parents agreed that mufti-day is well received by the children and suggested a donation could be asked for as opposed to a specific amount of money.

The next opportunity for a mufti-day (aside from Christmas) will be at the end of Feb half term. The Christmas mufti-day will be for the FCADs chocolate tombola, and a Christmas jumper/dress up day will be held as party of the school Christmas party/celebration day in the last few days of term.

4. PE Jumpers- NW advised that the uniform policy has always outlined 'PE sweatshirt' the enforcement of the policy to stop hoods being worn in PE is made from a safety perspective as when playing sports there is a risk of hoods being tugged on/caught. Wearing coats with

hoods in the playground remains necessary to ensure that the children are still able to play out at break times in inclement weather.

5. **Communication-** NW explained why the calendar synching problems have occurred and they are looking at a solution for this with the aim that the school calendar will be fully functional with all key dates again. The newsletter remains the most reliable source for up-coming dates and these are archived on the [website here](#).

It was raised in the meeting that the newsletter doesn't render very well on a mobile phone meaning that the dates can fall out of alignment on occasion. NW will review the template with tech support to see if improvement can be made to it.

6. **End of the school day/travel between sites-** the difficulty of parents getting across sites in 10 minutes is not a new issue. Discussion was had around allowing siblings out first on infants- felt to be unmanageable alongside prioritising bus children. Ensuring classes are let out on time at infants- NW will remind infant teaching staff.

NW advised parent forum that all staff on the junior site are aware of the short time frame and are supportive. Children will be looked after/taken back inside until parents arrive. KG raised that the children waiting for parents are often the ones feeling worried/upset about not being picked up at the same time as others- NW will feedback to teaching staff to speak to children/reassure them.

7. **Hot lunches- menus, quality, vegetable encouragement-** school previously had incentive stickers for children who ate all vegetables- NW will look at possibility of re-introducing. NW and AH (who has worked in school during lunchtimes) both raised that vegetables are often incorporated in the meal as opposed to being portioned on their own but when this occurs children are encouraged to eat some of them. Often, it's the last thing to be eaten or is left as children want to go out to play with friends.

There is a general sense that the food offering has deteriorated since last year- there have been supplier issues and last-minute changes with poor substitutes. There remains a frustration amongst parents that the 3 or 5 day choice is so rigid and a concern that food and money is being wasted, particularly when children are on the 5 day option and still requiring a packed lunch because of meal dislikes.

The process for how waste is measured and fed back was explained by NW and AH and what measures have been taken in the past to look at alternative suppliers, feed back to current supplier. **Action: Parent forum would like to feed back to the current supplier and will draft a letter for review by NW. AH will review the menu sheets for a period of last year and feedback on what was popular or not. Parent forum believe that the school dinners supplier should be seeking feedback from parents as customers.**

8. Credits for PE changing- in the winter it is felt that individuals wearing tights are disadvantaged and miss out on credits. NW suggested that the credits be split between tights and socks wearers, she will discuss with infant teaching staff. Further discussion was undertaken around consideration of uniform on PE/swimming days and to remind parents to think about clothing choices (ie; no tights on swimming days) and including extra socks in PE bag in case trainers/feet get wet when in PE.

9. TA in Yr 2- concerns raised about the allocation of TAs within the school as all year groups appear to have one but in Yr 2 the TA is required for 1:1 intervention. NW explained how the TA funding is allocated where children have an EHCP statement and that despite going out to recruit they have been unable to fill the role for a 1:1 TA. NW also noted that there were a large amount of vacancies for TA posts in the local area.

NW advised that it is likely to be more commonplace to see TAs shared amongst classes rather than a dedicated resource for every class as finances are re-assessed. NW advised that the Yr 2 TA is not in 1:1 scenario 100% of the time and that the class/teacher is supported by other school staff to enable booster groups to take place etc.

10. Yr 2 Readers- associated to the TA issue there is a concern that the Yr 2 children are not getting the opportunity to have their reading assessed regularly and therefore are not progressing through the coloured reading levels when ready. NW advised that a parent volunteer works with the class every Thursday to listen to readers and that guided reading takes place x 2 weekly. There are a group that fall under 'target readers' who are given the opportunity to read 1:1 every day. NW will feed back to Mr M about the assessment/colour book band progress.

11. After school club- NW advised that feedback for Exposure Sports should be directed to them as opposed to the school. NW acknowledged there had been some problems with the booking system as the infant attendees are limited to how many can come on the bus and this is not reflected in the booking system. NW believes that demand is increasing and that if this can be demonstrated Exposure Sports may be able to run an additional club at the infants.

NW advised that the school would support the use of laptops in the after school club to enable children to access the online education resources (Ed-shed, TT Rockstars etc.) and she will make Mr McGeeney aware of this.

NW advised that she is often present in the school when afterschool club is running and the children get a good mix of organised activity and the opportunity to undertake self-directed activities/play. **Action- Parent forum to advise parents to feedback directly to exposure sports and parent forum will also contact them to make them aware of collated feedback and potential for more sign ups if capacity increased.**

AOB:

1. Exposure sports gave PE lessons at the infant and junior sites, the feedback from children in these lessons was very good- school asked if this could be done more regularly. NW

explained that the lessons were delivered as a training exercise for the teaching staff and that the PE budget doesn't allow for staff salaries to be paid so Exposure sports could not be employed to do this regularly. Parent forum asked if this could be done seasonally- winter and summer as a training opportunity.

2. Feedback that PE on the infant site appears to be more varied and children enjoying it.
3. Request for children to be able to wear PE trainers at lunchtimes to prevent wear to school shoes when playing- reviewing with staff team taking logistics and disruption into account.

Next meeting planned- Friday 3rd March @ 9am