

## **Parent Forum Meeting Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

Present

Mrs Marrs, Headteacher

Parent Representatives:

Reception: Mrs O'Connor, Mrs Karia

Year 1: No representatives

Year 2: Mrs Carty

Year 3: Mrs O'Connor, Mrs Hicks

Year 4: No representatives

Year 5: Mrs Carty, Mrs Karia

Year 6: Mrs O'Connor

Mrs Crossley, School Business Manager (minutes)

### **Focus of meeting: Information received about children's attainment and progress.**

Focus of meeting, looking at school report templates and could they be amended, depending on feedback. This was an area that scored lowest on Parent View which some parents filled out at Parents' Evening.

#### **Reception comments:**

*Would like more 1:1 reading and information about phonics being carried out in school.*

- General discussion around the system in place in Reception class.
- All children have a phonics tin, consensus was that most of the parents did know what was being done in class.
- Mrs Marrs asked if parents are told the sounds they have learnt each week. This is known through homework so not exactly but the phonic tin covers this.

*Tapestry items put on by a parent had not been approved by Mrs Blake.*

- Mrs Marrs to check and see how often Mrs Blake approves.

#### **Year 1 comments**

No comments from Year 1

#### **Year 2 comments:**

No comments from Year 2

#### **Year 3 comments:**

No comments from Year 3

#### **Year 4 comments:**

No comments from Year 4

#### **Year 5 comments:**

*Would like to see academic progress and not just information for effort.*

- General discussion about reports and forum agreed this could be seen on mini reports and on main report, forum wondered if parent wanted to see a grade?
- Mrs Marrs explained there are no longer 'levels' as they have been discontinued and no grade or numbered system are now in place for primary schools. The school is required by DfE to report if children are 'working below age related', 'age related' or 'above age related' this may need to be better communicated to parents.

- Forum commented that they like mini report cards and the fact you can see that children are working hard even if they are not working at the required level as parents then know they are working hard. Liked that effort is recognised for non-academic children.
- Mrs Marrs explained the system now:
  - In Reception assessed as 1 2 or 3 which is emerging, expected, exceeded.
  - Rest of school Years 1 to 5 is national curriculum. An assessment judgement is made as to whether a child is working at age related expectation, this is done by looking at what we know, and judged against the child's knowledge of national curriculum.
- Mrs Marrs may consider parents evening to explain.

*Email system to communicate when children have done well, or had a yellow card.*

- Forum discussed the way rewards are given out at the moment and liked that it is personal in primary schools.
- Forum said they liked the current system for mini reports/feedback/proud ofs and enjoy getting reports at the end of the year and like effort information as this looks at the whole person not just academic information.
- Mrs Marrs has a log for each week of who has got proud of, privilege cards, red cards etc. as every week teachers send behaviour log to Mrs Marrs. This information is then shared with governors. Red cards are always followed up by the school as the teacher will telephone the parents.

## **Year 6 comments**

*Like format of report cards, end of year reports and appreciates the time that teachers take doing this, Maths and English is very detailed, but other subjects are an over-view, there is only a bit about the child at the end. Understands that school is measured by English and Maths, but wonders if subjects could be reported separately?*

- Forum discussed that some children who do not excel at English and Maths would benefit from other subjects in more detail as there could be an area or subject they are good at.
- Mrs Marrs explained the process is very time consuming for staff and wouldn't want a new system of report writing to be unmanageable.
- Forum members mentioned that the over-view of subjects is very generic and repeats information they have already received
- Mrs Marrs agreed that it could be more useful for a child who is less academic to have an area on the report where staff could mention an area where they are more successful.
- Forum said that from the report format as it is now, parents are not always aware of an area where their child is talented, as at parents' evening it may not be something that is focused on as parents will be concentrating on areas where they can give their children support as time is limited.
- Forum mentioned the improvement in the school reports in the last 3-4 years.
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## **Other items**

*The amount of TV/Film watching in class time.*

- Discussed this and Mrs Marrs thought this may refer to last week when there was snow and the children were in at lunch time because of the extreme cold, they had options to do an activity or watch a DVD.

*Could music assemblies for children who do music lessons in school also incorporate children who play instruments out of school?*

- This could be considered, but Mrs Marrs is hoping to introduce a talent show in the summer term and this may be the opportunity for a child to exhibit a particular skill

*Could there be more debating/peer mentoring?*

- Discussed Year 6 persuasive writing 'if I could be Headteacher for the day?' this will be judged by Mrs Marrs
- Year 5 are focusing on debates Mrs Marrs is attending debate session in Year 5 next week.
- Discussed how they like that school includes younger/older children in reading buddies, mediating schemes, bronze ambassadors and sports leaders.

*Enforcing positive mental health and how to be aware of this? How to deal with stress?*

- Discussed ways of dealing with anxious children and talking at child's level. Mindfulness and strategies to help with children feeling upset or anxious. Children are worried about failing SATs and put pressure on themselves.
- Mrs Arnold went on a course which explored mindfulness and mental health. Mrs Marrs will chat to Mrs Arnold about this.

*Mrs Marrs asked about the agenda for next time?*

Could possibly focus on behaviour?

**Next meeting date: Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> May**

**Meeting closed at: 10.15am**