

Parent Forum Meeting Thursday 5th July 2018

Present

Mrs Marrs, Headteacher

Parent Representatives:

Reception: Mrs Heriot

Year 1: No representatives

Year 2: No representatives

Year 3: Mrs O'Connor

Year 4: Mrs Carlin

Year 5: Mrs Karia

Year 6: Mrs Hicks

Mrs Crossley, School Business Manager (minutes)

9 responses received from parents

Focus of meeting: Forest School

Explanation of how Sports Premium money is used in school:

- enhances links with AMVC, sports events and teachers time and travel to attend sports events
- Forest School and equipment required for linked activities
- PE coaches to enhance PE lessons and run lunch time clubs

Forest School encourages and enhances team building, opportunities to learn outdoors and to be active.

Reception comments:

Feedback from Reception parents, positive.

When Forest School was introduced the school timetable was looked at to give each year group a 6 week block.

Year 1 comments

My daughter thoroughly enjoyed Forest School. I was thrilled to hear about her adventure! A very positive experience! I hope it will continue to inspire our children.

Year 2 comments:

My son absolutely loved Forest School, it was something he really looked forward to. I hope he gets the opportunity to do it every year.

Year 3 comments:

My child really enjoyed Forest School especially learning to saw wood. Being more of a hands on/practical child it was ideal.

Could Forest schools be optional as it causes more washing and children go out in a dirty/disgusting area, my child had time off due to germs picked up.

Discussed negative comments and forum were surprised as feedback had been positive, but acknowledged that some children and parents may not like the concept of Forest School.

Year 4 comments:

Fantastic that you are able to provide Forest School education. Both of my children thoroughly enjoyed taking part and benefit from outdoor learning. The only improvement I can think of is could they do it more than once a year?

Forum discussed how the children enjoy having something they have made to take home and keep. Discussed timetable from next year could there be 2 blocks of 4 weeks, Mrs Marrs to liaise with Mrs Houghton and see if this could work.

Forum agreed Forest Schools is a good opportunity for children to learn skills, and learn away from the classroom. A parent asked if Forest schools is in addition to PE lessons, yes pupils still participate in their two PE lessons a week when they are doing their Forest Schools block.

Year 5 comments:

Both my kids love it, it's the first thing they tell about their day. Being outside, in nature, doing something new and different. Best one was roasting marshmallows around the fire, they also like working as a team. It is so good for them to round off their learning. Hope it will carry on in the future!

Year 6 comments

I like the principle of learning in the outdoor environment very much. Also that pupils are entrusted with risky experiences like lighting fires.

My son's feedback is the Mrs Houghton has been excellent and has thoroughly enjoyed it. His wish list is to use these skills on a wild camping trip!

Forum discussed pupils participating during the winter months may get dirtier. Children enjoying fire lighting and it is good they are doing these activities in a controlled environment. Could Year 6 do this before Finborough? Not sure how this would relate to Finborough as they do a lot of team building events such as raft building and it is better that Year 6 do Forest School after SATs. Now Forest School has been running for the last two terms the teachers have been asked to find ways of linking it into the curriculum in the future.

Other items from forms:

Discussion on how we can get more responses from parents. For the amount of parents we have we have had a very few responses. We would like parents to put their views in writing and let us know as without the views of parents we are unable to address any issues both negative and positive.

How can we engage more parents? Decided that the meeting in Autumn term will be open to all parents and we will ask if anyone would like to join Parent Forum. It doesn't matter how many representatives from each class because if some parents cannot make each date we will still have a representative from each class.

Suggested social media posting to encourage parents to fill out forms when they next go out, agreed this was acceptable to do.

Future topics for discussion

Clubs.

It was decided as after school clubs are not run by the school it isn't the forum to discuss.

Homework

Could this be discussed as some issues surrounding homework:

- if not completed there seems to be no sanctions for children who haven't completed it and this is demotivating for children who complete each week and on time.

General discussion about homework as some parents love it and some hate it. Mrs Marrs explained that if we have a blanket policy which states children have to stay in and miss break

if children are not supported by parents at home it would not be appropriate as some children cannot do homework on their own.

Could we have a warning system to parents for repeat offenders? For the children who may want to complete homework but are not supported at home Mrs Marrs runs a homework club on a Wednesday for Years 5/6 and she would be happy to extend this to KS2, not KS1. Homework is important as it helps to set children up for life. Mrs Marrs said homework needs to be reviewed and she is wondering if there should be open homework set, for example 'this week we learned about fractions what do you know?' or do we have worksheets which help parents know what they are doing. Mixed response from forum, agreed parents would be divided as to which they preferred.

Parking

Forum discussed the continuing problems and agreed that any problems should be reported to the appropriate team at the Local Authority or the police.

Meeting closed at: 10am

Next meeting date: 27.09.18