

Parent Forum Meeting 23/2/16

Present:

Jo King

Melinda Lavender

Claire Barker

Jenny Nicholls

Kaylee Seymour

Xanthe Glynn

Kelly Stock

Apologies from Tim Fitzgerald

It was agreed that the relationship between parents and school was generally very positive however better communication would improve this further. It was also agreed that the school will be more clear in the future regarding changes and news to avoid any rumours or speculation.

Miss Stock then opened the floor to the parents to explain who they were and what they wanted to achieve as part of the forum.

Melinda Lavender – parent of a child in year 4. She agreed that there had been a lot of changes in year four however most parents were happy. Mel did feel that the biggest thing that the school needs to do is to give the parents as much information as possible. She suggested that there is a news ticker tape included on the website to keep parents up to date on any current news and to remind them of upcoming events.

Jenny Nicholls – Jenny feels that this forum is a positive thing and can only help open up communication more. She feels that most of the parents she talks to are happy with the school.

Claire Barker – Claire is very happy with the school, she takes a keen interest in what is going on and is fully supportive of what the school does. She finds the HT very approachable.

Kaylee Seymour – Kaylee only moved the area in June but she is very happy with the school. She chose to be part of the parent forum so she could be more involved in the school.

Jo King – Jo has 3 children in the school, she moved them from another local school and she cannot fault this school. She does feel that sometimes the negative comments from other parents on Facebook can be counterproductive.

Parents commented that a small number of parents believe Miss Stock to be 'a numbers person' and only interested in getting an outstanding report. Miss Stock clarified that the only people to benefit from an outstanding judgement would be the children at the school. She added that her life and the teachers' lives would be far easier if they just carried on as before. The extra work load and effort required to improve the school is significant and that is why it is so disheartening to hear parents say such things. The ONLY purpose of aiming for outstanding provision is to improve the education and experiences for the children at the school so they can access above average provision, ideally the aim being the school will provide the top 20-5% provision nationally. This helps children to become

the best they can be and achieve well at secondary and beyond. The staff and headteacher do not benefit at all except in the knowledge they are doing the very best for their children and the sense of personal fulfilment this brings.

Parents asked how the FB comments would be dealt with. Miss Stock confirmed that our legal advisors confirmed our Aggressive Behaviour policy is correct; repeat offenders will be banned from coming on site with a possible £500 fine. Parents would meet with Miss Stock to discuss if they wish to school their children elsewhere if they are so unhappy with the school.

Notes from Tim Fitzgerald were also mentioned:

- Parents are always welcome to spend time in the classroom and this will need to be arranged directly with the class teacher.
- The structure for parents evening will be sent out to all year 5 parents closer to the time.
- As mentioned before, the school is looking at ways to keep all parents informed about updates via the website and Facebook page.
- Parents will be made aware of how to contact the parents before the next meeting.
- The children were not given an end of term party, during the week the school had arranged for a climbing wall to come to school and to celebrate Chinese New Year on the Friday, as a consequence the year 5s got extra time on the climbing wall to compensate for not having a party.

Miss Stock did suggest that we may be looking to a new design for our website and wanted to know what parents wanted to see on the website, suggestions were:

- Term times and inset days – perhaps with a countdown for events.
- Lunch menus
- Resource link for homework – suggested websites to support homework for each class.
- Names of parents on the forum and how they can be contacted
- Homework
- Clubs
- Swimming
- News flashes
- Medical forms
- Reminders for payments

Miss Stock then asked for suggestions from parents regarding the children's learning. Parents suggested:

- At the beginning of each term parents are told what the children will be learning that term/ half term.
- Photos of the children weekly on FB/ Website
- Photos of certificates and awards posted of all children who receive them – or none at all.
- Celebrate outside school achievements

Miss Stock asked the parents what they felt about the new format for parent's evening, all agreed that it worked well and to keep it the same. Parents agreed there should be a reminder that the 10

minute appointment is for information about their child's academic progress and any other concerns should be dealt with by appointment at another time.

Miss Stock felt that the security around the school could be improved and it was suggested that the red gates at the side of the school were replaced with taller gates with an intercom system for entry. It was also suggested that only children could come through the gates in the morning and at the end of school the teachers would bring the children out to the parents. The parents felt that they would find it difficult not to have contact with the teachers when necessary. It was agreed that parents should be encouraged to write notes to the teachers and that any concerns should be discussed at a mutually convenient time. However we might need further discussion on this at a later date.

It was also suggested that teacher achievements are celebrated with the children and parents to celebrate all the good teachers do.

The date and time of the next meeting is: Tuesday 19th April 2016 at 10:30am