

Parent Forum

Thursday 3rd November 2016

Attendees:

Kelly Stock

Claire Barker (left meeting early and then met with Miss Stock the following week)

Joanne King

Jenny Nicholls

Melinda Lavendar

Jayne Harris

Kaylee Seymour

Welcome	Kelly welcomed all to meeting
Uniform	<p>The shop in Burnham where the school uniform is supplied is closing. Lara Chapman has offered to work from home and supply parents uniform requests and will attend Open Evenings and Parents Evenings or the other option is to go to a shop in Maldon.</p> <p>All agreed business should stay with Lara Chapman.</p> <p>Could she visit the school once a week for an hour - certain day/time every week so everyone knew when to visit? Could she work from an order form and deliver the uniform to the school when it's ready?</p>
Kitchen	<p>The kitchen have been discussing the options of a new tray for the children to use as there have been issues with smaller children carrying the tray with plates, cups, etc. The suggestion has been a moulded tray that has separated areas for the main meal, dessert, cup holder, cutlery. This tray is also dishwasher proof which will increase hygiene.</p>

	<p>Mrs King had slight reservations as felt it could be a backwards step for the school.</p> <p>Discussion was surrounding whether or not it could be useful for KS1 but not KS2 but was agreed it should be a blanket decision.</p> <p>Due to increased hygiene, ease of use and the reduction of work for MDA's and kitchen staff, it was agreed that the new trays should be introduced.</p>
Notice required for change of collecting children	Was agreed that due to pressure put on office staff and to ensure the safety of children, there would be a cut-off point of 2.30pm for any change in arrangements to picking children up that day, unless it is an emergency.
Shoes	Has been agreed by the school that girls can wear plain black, flat, non-logo'd ankle boots to school.
Parent Forum	There has been positive feedback concerning the parent forum. Parents have been happy to approach the members of the parent forum with any issues or concerns they have that are worrying them or they would like answers to but they do not feel are important enough to worry Miss Stock with. Other parents feel they are getting the answers they need and have a voice within the school.
Parents	Miss Stock said that parental feedback has been very positive at the open evening and parent evening. Said that it's been a learning curve for her as to how to deal with issues to improve school but keep parents happy, but feels she now has an understanding of how to approach issues going forward.
Invitation to 2016 Year 7's	Miss Stock suggestion was to invite the schools Year 7's back for one afternoon after school.

	<p>Mrs King said that in another school she knows of, they invite the Year 6 and Year 7's back to school one evening to all sit and have dinner together. To discuss how they have settled in to school, what issues they have faced. No parents to be invited so the children can talk openly.</p> <p>Invite to be sent out before Christmas.</p>
<p>Attendance Rewards</p>	<p>Miss Stock asked if the subject of Attendance Rewards should be raised now as all parents seem to be happy and she doesn't want to rock the boat.</p> <p>Mrs Lavendar felt that everyone is in the countdown to Christmas now and moods are high so parents may be more accepting of this news this side of Christmas, whereas after Christmas, parents can generally feel quite low and may not take the news as positively.</p> <p>Mrs Lavendar also highlighted that it is important to give parents sufficient warning.</p> <p>Suggestions were put forward about attendance rewards. Should it be a raffle ticket and then one final child would win a bike for example. Mrs Lavendar felt that a raffle ticket scheme was already in place in the school and children were already complacent about raffle tickets as only one name gets pulled out of the raffle bag in Friday assemblies.</p> <p>Suggestions that children could visit Burnham Museum, the Lifeboat Station or the Fire Station.</p> <p>Was agreed that 98% attendance should still stand. Each child's individual circumstances would be taken into account though, surgery, bereavement etc.</p> <p>All felt cinema was a great idea and the only change should perhaps be that this incentive was put into place every Term instead of a Yearly incentive.</p>

Red Box / Black Box	<p>Reminder to be sent to parents and children that the Red Box near the office is for Parent Forum only and the Black Box near the office is for Office letters. Someone had put their child's Christmas Card order in the Red Box and as such has missed the order deadline.</p>
Front of School	<p>Parents will be urged to wait in designated areas at the front of school. If you have 2 children in the school, suggestion would be to wait for the youngest child first and the eldest child will go and find the parent. Or the eldest child can wait in designated area and wait for parent to collect them.</p> <p>Meet and greet areas.</p> <p>Will be nice for parents to get to know other parents of the same year group.</p> <p>Suggestion of possibly having flags in designated areas or pictures of the class animal very clearly displayed. This would be easier for child recognition.</p> <p>Would also make leaving the school easier for the Reception children as they wouldn't be pushed out of the way by older children.</p> <p>Miss Stock advised that there is no legal age limit to when a child is allowed to walk home on their own but as a school she would like restrictions in place to ensure the safety of all children.</p> <p>The gate at the front of school is to promote the safety of the children and to make them feel secure while in school. Will also help to make sure they are being picked up by the right person eliminating problems of doubt for potential unsafe situations.</p>
White Board Markers	<p>New white board markers have been bought for KSI but parents are still saying that they don't wash out of polo shirts but has washed out of a summer dress.</p>

	<p>Can children wear aprons?</p> <p>If they can, should parents supply the apron or can they use the ones in class?</p> <p>Can they use chalk? Messy and could breathe in chalk dust.</p> <p>Agreement has been for children to use the aprons in class.</p>
Shoe Box for Christmas	<p>Discussions surrounding the fact Ormiston put together one shoe box per form group. One for a boy, one for a girl.</p> <p>The aim is for each child to make up one shoe box but if they struggle with this a list of suggested items could be sent out to each family and ask for donations towards a shoe box. The Parent Forum are then happy to spend time putting together the shoe boxes.</p> <p>Like the idea of the shoe boxes as it makes the children realise that some other children in the world are just receiving a pad, a toothbrush etc for a present.</p> <p>Perhaps next year shoe boxes for soldiers.</p>
Year 2	<p>Request that LSA shows the children out at the end of the day as there is always a queue for the parents to talk to Mrs Bache.</p> <p>Mrs Royce's replacement all in hand.</p>
Teachers	<p>Miss Stock said that normally primary teachers are generalist teachers but BCPS now have specialist PE teacher, English specialist, Maths specialist and Spanish Specialist ensuring best practice. Would like an Art specialist.</p>

Website	<p>Send link out to parent form to feedback and also send link to govenors.</p> <p>Kelly just has to agree website and then it will go live.</p> <p>Front TV in office to be updated.</p>
Christmas Lunch	<p>Parent forum date for lunch hopefully on a Wednesday or Thursday.</p>
General	<p>Melinda Lavendar feels that what's been done in the last year has been amazing. The children are genuinely fortunate and happy. The teachers are instilling enthusiasm and inspiration. Nothing that the school cannot achieve.</p> <p>Kelly Stock said children deserve more. BCPS was in bottom 45% of schools nationally in 2015. Want to be top 20% as that's what the children deserve.</p> <p>Discussion around parent wanting to transfer child from a private school to BCPS.</p> <p>Kelly Stock really struggling workload wise. No deputy until January 2017. Discussion around Kelly letting parents know about workload in the newsletter to try and avoid any parents being disappointed if they don't get an immediate response.</p>