

## **Parent Forum Meeting**

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

### **Attendees:**

Kelly Stock  
Alex Russ  
Jenny Nicholls  
Claire McCormick  
Kaylee Seymour  
Jayne Harris  
Claire Scott

### **Apologies:**

Claire Barker  
Jo King

### **Attendance Reward**

The main reason Kelly had called for a Parent Forum meeting, was to discuss the views of the parents relating to the recent Attendance Reward Scheme.

- Kelly explained that she had received 4 emails and had seen a Facebook thread where at last count there were 33 comments. She was aware later that approximately 70 comments were made. Kelly had replied to all 4 emails, who had accepted her reply.
- The Rio Cinema are no longer able to allocate tickets for the Attendance Reward event, the next option had been Disc Golf at the Parlour Café but due to the cost of around £600 and the weather, this option was not seen to be viable, this is why J&C Pets had been booked for the event as they were available and cheaper. Kelly has now decided no rewards will take place in school time.

The general view of the parents regarding the Attendance Reward;

- From a child's perspective, to receive an invitation to the petting zoo and to have time out of class to attend this, this is seen as a bigger reward.
- Year groups 2 and 3, there are around 25 parents who do not agree with the Attendance Reward.
- Year 1, there were very few parents that complained but the ones that did had the view that maybe the trustworthy and better behaved children could be also rewarded.
- The younger children in the school don't understand that a child in their class as they see getting told off on a regular basis, may be in school all the time and are awarded with an Attendance Reward but a child who is very well behaved but has to take a week off due to tonsillitis will miss out on the reward.
- Some parents also thought it unfair if a child missed out due to on-going medical conditions or absence from school due to funerals and other important family

circumstances. Kelly explained that medical conditions are always taken into account as are funerals.

- It was thought that the size and cost of the recent reward angered some parents as even though their children achieved the reward, they felt the cost of such an event could be used in a more effective way for the whole school.
- Parents are also very unaware of all the other certificates that are achieved within school and it was recommended that these other achievements were highlighted throughout the school.

Kelly confirmed that from now on there would be no more 'in school' attendance rewards. Any awards given out would be for us in the child's personal time away from school. Kelly also stated that she felt the Attendance Rewards gave an opportunity to all the children in the school who perhaps may not be the most academic or the most athletic, it was a chance for them to succeed in something.

Kelly confirmed that all children's attendance was viewed on a personal basis and all medical conditions, medical appointments and time off to attend funerals and such other exceptional events were always taken into consideration when analysing the Attendance Rewards.

Kelly suggested that maybe the Attendance Reward threshold should be reduced to just over 97% to move in line with the schools Attendance Policy where it states that any child should be kept off of school for 48 hours from the last time of sickness. If a child is off for 2 days in a term, it would bring their attendance to just over 97%.

Kelly asked the parent forum their thoughts on a questionnaire being sent to all parents to obtain their views on the current Attendance Reward scheme and also asked the parent forum how the Attendance Reward scheme could be changed.

- A suggestion that a child that achieves the attendance threshold each term could be given a certificate and any child that has received 2 out of the possible 3 certificates would then be given an Attendance Reward at the end of the Summer term.
- A suggestion that a child achieves team points throughout the year for attendance, therefore helping their particular team to achieve the most points and all the team benefiting from an Attendance Reward.

#### **ACTION**

- A questionnaire to be sent to all parents asking for their opinion on the Attendance Rewards. Anonymous replies, as some of the parent forum felt that some of the parents with stronger personalities were dominating the opinions of others. Parent forum to check questionnaire before it gets sent out.
- To highlight the other achievements throughout the school that the children receive.

It was agreed that as long as the children were happy and they understood the Attendance Rewards, this was the main priority.

#### **Year 4 Teacher**

There has been a lot of unease amongst the year 4 parents with regards to the change of teachers. Alex confirmed that the year 4 supply teacher had unfortunately left and that Kelly was not happy with the circumstances in which the teacher left as she had committed to staying to January and gave the school no notice. The school were doing everything they could.

Jayne was very supportive and explained that a year group one of her children were in had a year or so of unease but that she felt it had no bearing on her child's learning.

Everyone on the parent forum were very supportive of the school and understood the difficult situation but were confident that come January the children would settle with a new permanent teacher.

#### **Year 2 End of Day Arrangements**

Kaylee Seymour had a quite few parents voice disappointment that the year 2 classes were not coming out at the end of the day until 3.15pm/3.20pm, resulting in parents having to wait around by the gate. A number of parents had recommended that the school return to the staggered release times or an alternative suggestion was to have the year 2 teachers, take the children to the front of the school (in front of year 1) and allocate children to parents from there.

Alex explained that it can all depend on what the classes have been doing on that particular day, if they are taking time getting changed after PE etc, sometimes this all has an effect on the rest of the children as the teachers have to make sure all children are ready to leave.

#### **ACTION:**

Alex said he would speak to the year 1 teachers to raise the concern and to put in place the children coming out quicker in future.

#### **Trips**

A parent explained that in the last 2 months, she has had to spend £66.00 on school trips/events at school She feels that this is an excessive amount and would like to see the trips spread across the school year. As she has spent a lot of money in the last few months, she is now being very selective in what payments she makes (ie. Dress up days).

#### **PE**

A number of parents had expressed their concern that their children were expected to continue their PE lesson outside, even if it was raining. The children were then in class for the rest of the day with wet hair. This is resulting in parents asking for PE kits to come home with children more often as otherwise the damp PE kit is put in the PE bag, into the PE box and ends up smelling. They feel that if this is going to be the norm, that the children are prompted to take their PE kits home weekly.

The parent forum had positive comments about Mr Proudfoot and 2 of them even stated that their children used to hate PE but are now absolutely loving it and taking part where they can.

A parent questioned why the school can afford a designated PE teacher but not to keep the swimming pool open all year round?

### **Choir**

Please can it be made more obvious who can go to Choir and when and where it is. A child wanted to go to lunchtime choir and stood waiting at the new hall, where they thought it would be but no one turned up.

#### **ACTION:**

Claire to speak to Louise Terry/Sharon Search and find out dates and location of choir.

### **Year 6 Homework**

Parents were questioning if the year 6 homework was going to be marked and given back to the children as it didn't seem that this was happening. Alex confirmed that he had a few parents at Parents Evening that had asked the same thing. He explained that when the homework comes in he looks at it and makes 2 different piles, 1 pile is of children that have completed homework and have understood it and the 2<sup>nd</sup> pile is of children that haven't completed it or that haven't understood it and he asks these children to stay behind at break or lunch to go through it with them and get it finished.

The year 6 homework is purposely quite difficult so the children have to engage with their parents and ask for support.

#### **ACTION:**

Jayne Harris going to explain to the other year 6 parents what happens with the homework so that they are aware.

### **Mental Health and Wellbeing**

Claire McCormick expressed personal concerns about the Mental Health Awareness Day. In year 5 they had a writing exercise and they had to put all their feelings in a bucket. At a later date, these feelings were stuck into individuals books and Claire was upset to read her son's feelings as he was saying he felt lost (amongst other things). Claire wanted to know what happens now? Now the school have asked the question about how children are feeling, what are they now doing with this information and how are they supporting the children? Claire felt there was a huge pressure building in year 5 and that her son is becoming very anxious because of this and wanted to know that there was support available.

Alex advised that Jeanette Evans had gathered all this information together and she was working with Miss Stock through it all per year group, starting with year 6. If there were any comments from children she felt were alarming, she would be talking to them and assuring them they had someone to go to if they felt like this again.