

Minutes from parents forum meeting

Friday 5th October 9.15 am – 10.30 am

1 Introductions – Mrs Tyers, Mrs Selby, Mrs Archer and Mrs Thomas were present at the meeting.

2 SDP – curriculum

Headlines from the School improvement plan for this academic year were discussed, curriculum focal areas include reflection on pedagogy (child development) , and how this impacts on the teaching and learning of the children at different stages, further development of the characteristics of effective learning through all year groups, IT embedded through cross curricular links and ensuring there is a consistent approach to maths using the Shanghai maths mastery programme.

The forum expressed that they were pleased that the curriculum for our children had been thought about considering learning styles as well as high academic expectations.

3 Wellbeing / resilience

This area was discussed at length for both pupils and staff. Suggestions on community links in this area were given for outreach support and the route to resilience programme explained to the forum as this will involve parents. Forum members were asked to describe their child at the end of year 6 thinking about the qualities they would want them to show. This resulted in looking at the list of words offered through the route to resilience programme and which ones we may adopt as a school. It was agreed that curiosity and resilience are missing from our learning muscles and values and could be built in and explored further as part of our whole school approach.

The curriculum was again discussed and the scrutiny that both pupils and teachers experience which can have a detrimental effect on the teaching and learning. The forum stated that the children had really enjoyed art week with opportunities to do art every day and the child led opportunities that the

children enjoyed. It was agreed that these opportunities need to be more frequent and may not always be planned for in advance.

4 Home support with spelling

This area is being looked at across the school as many children experience difficulties with retaining spelling patterns and using the correct spellings in their independent writing. It was agreed that parents need to be better informed of strategies to support with spelling but that a workshop would most probably be poorly attended because of time constraints.

Action - It was suggested that spelling sessions could be filmed and put onto the website to help support parents with their own approach. Mrs Thomas asked if these clips could be sent via parent mail as not all parents look at the website regularly. **Action** - They also suggested either a weekly or a termly spelling award which was fully inclusive to encourage children to learn their spellings and engage home support. It was agreed that both these actions would be shared with staff prior to making a final decision.

Action - Mrs Tyers also asked if a list of age appropriate educational websites / apps could be put on to the website for parents to access.

5 Promotion of the School and communication (newsletter)

Parent's forum commented on the positive use of the school face book page and a thank you to Mrs McGrory for highlighting aspects of the weekly newsletter both on a Friday and Sunday evening.

The forum thought it was very important to have the newsletter weekly but wondered if a volunteer could support Mrs Valiente with putting this together each week as they realised it took up a lot of time on a Friday.

Action – speak to Mrs Valiente and find a suitable volunteer.

Feedback from other parents indicated that parent mail was working well as the only form of parent communication and it was easier giving permission via email than remembering to look in book bags etc for hard copies.

6 AOB / Date of next meeting

Thursday 6th December 9.15 am.

