



Parent Forum Meeting MINUTES

Meeting date | time
02.10.2023 2.30 – 3.15pm

Meeting called by Deirdre Petersen
Type of meeting Parent Forum
Note taker NE

Attendees

DP (Head teacher)
(parents) RM, JD, EM, HC, GP, LH, MT, SB, GW, RS, SH, SH, RK, EH, BF
(staff) JM, NE

Apologies: None received

INTRODUCTION/ WELCOME

DP welcomes everyone to the forum and outlines working in partnership for the benefit of the children and our school community. School/ Trust vision and values. Parent voice explained and we are working in partnership to shape the future of our children.

ACTIONS FROM LAST PARENT FORUM -

ACTION: School dinners - DP to investigate portion sizes. This has been investigated and canteen staff do offer larger portions to our KS2 children as well as offer seconds if available. There is always plenty of food and children are happy and well fed at lunchtime. Reminder to parents re Census Day free meal for all children on 5.10.23.

ACTION: Class structure changes - DP to consult with Y4 parents. This has been successful and DP has had 1:1 meetings with any Y4 parents who wished to discuss the year group divide. DP explained school reputation is growing and numbers also. Pan is 20 in each year group but we may be able to accommodate more if space allows. Benefits of EYFS and Y6 exclusive year groups discussed.

ACTION: Playtimes - Explore playground leader training. DP explained expectations are high, Arena are coming to train staff and Y6 children to help us structure lunchtimes. Optimum are in every Wednesday structuring lunchtime play, which is going well.

1.1	<p>NEW ACADEMIC YEAR/ School priorities</p> <p>Reading corners/ sensory areas now established in each classroom/ building works. DP thanks PSFA for their contributions towards this. Soft and inviting sensory/ reading areas have been set up in classrooms for children to learn how to self-regulate. GP asked if the children could request time in this area? DP confirmed yes.</p> <p>DP explained that after a successful funding bid, we have been able to paint the school corridors and replace the office carpets. Next step is to bid for a significant amount of funding for roof improvements. Classrooms will be painted and carpeted after this. As a new school in our Trust – there will be significant investment to the building and in provision also.</p>
1.2	<p>RWi and Writing development key to success. Developing teachers with optimal learning approach (cognitive science).</p> <p>RWI training happening today – to upskill teachers/ TAs and ensure that we are delivering best practice. Teachers and TA’s receive regular weekly coaching from Reading leads. Focus on reading and writing, as expectations are now higher. Children’s books are looking better already. Handwriting development, focusing on the basics is making an impact.</p> <p>Optimal Learning Approach - aTrust wide initiative – based on teachers knowing how children’s brains work, cognitive science and evidence/ researched based.</p> <p>GW mentioned Twinkle work sheets coming home last academic year. DP reassured no twinkle sheets will be sent home and that the preference is that these are not used in school either. We are not a fan of the worksheet approach, pupils recording in books is more successful.</p> <p>BF asked about the pen license being taken away from the children who had already gained their pens. BF said that it was “demoralizing” for the children who had gone back to a pencil from September. DP reassured parents that the children will earn their pens back when their handwriting matches expectation. Our handwriting approach has highlighted errors in joining and so we are starting everyone again from the beginning, fixing minor errors and then handing out pens. Pen license is an old fashioned approach that was inherited by DP.</p> <p>ACTION: DP to consult with staff re pen license and how to progress as we implement the new handwriting approach.</p>
1.3	<p>Enrichment opportunities – coastal, outdoor, residential trips, theatre, visitors to school, hub days etc.</p> <p>Focus on the coast this half term – what is on our doorstep and maximizing the local environment. Next term will be forest school focused. Forest school needs some work, PSFA will be fundraising for this to be further developed.</p> <p>Parents said their children are enjoying the beach school. Positive feedback offered.</p> <p>JM explained that the beach school incorporates looking at basic geology and environmental issues.</p>

	<p>DP outlines residential trips planned for 23/24 – Y3/4 - Porthpean, Y5/6 – Bristol. Both are 2 night stays. Information to be sent to parents at a later date, when plans are finalized.</p> <p>Theatre trip in December to see Peter Pan. Again PSFA will be subsidizing the trip.</p> <p>Local artists/other local visitors will be invited into school. Hub days will continue with story tellers, artists. This year will be for Y3 and 4.</p> <p>A parent mentioned that Cognition Learning have been trying to contact the school. DP asked for our details to be passed on.</p> <p>ACTION: DP to make contact with Cognition Learning to see what they can offer.</p>
1.4	<p>AOB</p> <p>GP asked about the sea pool school for Chough class (Y4+5) on behalf of IP (her child). DP explained the grouping of this – numbers are limited to 12 due to free mini bus but Sea Pool has agreed to all of Y5 (20 children).</p> <p>Parent asked about lunch time clubs. Will they be reinstated? DP explained that there is a Choir club and most children wish to be outdoors when then are able.</p> <p>Action: DP to consult with teachers re a quiet lunchtime club in Winter months.</p> <p>A parent asked about wrap around care. Action: DP will ask for uptake again via another survey.</p> <p>LC parent asked about homework (other than reading). DP said it's a more creative approach to home learning. BF and RK asked about the extra homework that has been set in Y6? DP will investigate this.</p> <p>Action: DP to investigate any extra home learning set in addition to non-negotiables and creative projects.</p> <p>PE kit (RK) said it isn't working for their family. Asked if they can bring their PE kit in on the day they have PE? DP welcomed parents' comments and explained that we are going to give it a few more weeks to review how it is working. DP explained that the timetable is flexible and that there may be a need for PE kit on more than one day/ we want to increase self-sufficiency (taking care of belongings, dressing etc) and also dispel any body image issues in our younger children. So far, most classes have changing down to a fine art. DP understands that parents do not want to be out of pocket with buying multiple trainers. Advice offered from parents on sending trainers separately (not in kit) so can be worn for after-school clubs etc.</p> <p>Action: Review changing for PE in school. DP will ask staff for their voice too.</p> <p>Positive feedback from all parents about Mr Pittman from Optimum. This is going well and children love the sessions.</p>

DP thanks everyone for attending. Meeting closed at 15.15