

Parent Forum meeting Monday 26th February 2018

Apologies: Mrs M. Gray (Year 3 representative)

Present: Mrs J. Whitehouse-Sharpe (HT), Mrs S Weedon (Chair of Governors), Mrs V. Wilson-Watkin (Year 4 representative), Mrs B. Donnelly (Year 6 representative)

Minutes:

Year 6

1. A year 5 / 6 parent has asked why year 5 and year 6 get the same spellings.
JWS explained that in the new NC there are Year 5/6 spellings that children need to learn and be able to spell in their independent writing by the end of Year 6.
2. World Book Day – Why is there no dress-up day this year? Why is there no bedtime stories this year?
JWS explained that the staff wanted to do something different this year (we have done the same thing for 7 years to celebrate World Book Day). This year the staff have organised a dress a potato as your favourite book character, extreme reading, World Book Day class room doors and a ‘surprise’ activity that the children would find out about during the day (this was not shared with the parents/children because the staff want to have an element of surprise on the morning). JWS explained that all children would take home an A4 sheet with photos from the day, so that parents could see what the children had been up to.
Parent Forum members requested that in the future, dressing up for World Book Day is made optional so that those children who enjoy dressing up can do so and those who do not do not have to join in.
3. Scaplen’s Court – Why didn’t the children go? Why were the parents not informed about the reasons why the children did not go?
JWs explained that (to the best of her memory – although this would need to be checked) Scaplen’s Court cancelled the trip. There was not a date available for the school to re-book. JWS thought that the parents were told this but she would check with Mrs Vail. Any further cancellations/postponements would be shared with parents.

Year 4

4. Lunchtimes – when eating in the hall, why are the children told to eat in silence?
JWS explained that the children have been asked to eat in silence recently because the level of noise in the dining room was too high. Children are only asked to eat silently after a warning is given. Recently, the staff have changed the table arrangements. JWS has asked some of the older children whether they like these new arrangements and the vast majority of children stated they preferred the tables in the new format.
Mrs Weedon asked if we could re-look at the possibility of KS2 children going out to play from 12-12:15 and then going into the hall but JWS stated that staffing this is an issue. Mrs Weedon stated that finding more volunteers could be a way of supporting this.
5. Lunchtimes – Children who have lunchboxes have been told to take their rubbish home in their lunchboxes. This is causing a mess in the children’s lunchboxes (particularly the yogurt

pots) and the Parent Forum request that children empty yogurt pots into the bin. JWS to action this.

6. Year 3 / 4 homework – Why is the Mathematics, Literacy, spelling, tables homework sent out and handed in on different evenings? Why is the homework sent home over the weekend? The Parent Forum requested that the homework is sent home on the same night. JWS stated that she would ask Mrs Swaffield if this is a possibility. JWS also explained that many parents in the class may prefer the homework going home over the weekend and the other half may not. JWS asked the parent Forum representative to ask the individual parent to speak to Mrs Swaffield if their child is finding it difficult to complete homework.
7. Missing clothing in Class 3. There have been a number of children going home with missing clothing – coats, PE kit etc, even when parents have named the items. JWS asked Parent Forum representatives to check the lost property box in the first instance. JWS will speak to Mrs Swaffield to ask the children to check their PE bags to ensure that they only have their own PE kits and haven't swapped by mistake. JWS will place an item in next week's parent newsletter to make sure that all clothing is named so that if and when it goes missing it can be easily found.
8. Parking – The parent Forum representative stated that many parents are noting that other parents are not parking in appropriate places and asked why the catering vans park in the car park.
JWS explained that Local Food Links have a contract with the school to make hot school meals which is why the vans park in the car park. JWS agreed with the Parent Forum representative that there are many occasions when parents park in inappropriate places on the school grounds. JWS mentioned that regular reminders are placed in the parent letters and that individual letters are sent to parents if they are observed parking inappropriately/unsafely.
9. Learner of the week – Why do some children get the award twice when other children do not get the award at all?
JWS explained that teachers keep a list of children that get awarded the Learner of the week. JWS will speak to staff to try ensure that all children get it at least once before a child is awarded twice. Parent Forum members asked if it was possible for more than one child to be awarded the learner of the week so that children do not wait so long to get the award. JWS agreed to ask staff if this is a possibility some weeks. (This will also make up for the weeks when we do not have celebration assembly.)
JWS also stated that she would remind staff to send children to the HTs office for a Headteacher's Award – this is also an award for children to gain if they have worked hard and made good progress in something.

Year 3

10. Missing clothing in Class 3 – Please see item above already discussed.
11. World Book Day arrangements – Please see item above already discussed.
12. School lunch hall – sitting in silence – Please see item above already discussed.
13. Christmas jumper day – The parent Forum member stated that it was disappointing and although the jumper day was re-instated the children were not allowed to wear non-school uniform as well. The Parent Forum member stated that children's dressing down days should be grabbed and used when they can.

JWS originally planned the Christmas Jumper Day because it was a national charity event to raise money for Save the Children. The office received a number of complaints with regard to being asked for money for different events which is why the event was taken out of the diary. The office then received further complaints about children not being able to wear their Christmas jumpers so the event was placed back in the diary.

Parent Forum members request that in the future the school makes it very clear about whether it is non-school uniform.

14. If snow appears this week and the school is shut, does this go against attendance?

JWS explained that a school closure day does not go against any child's attendance as it does not count as a school open day. If there is a school closure day, it is made clear on the school website early on the day of snow.

Reception

15. A parent of Reception class wrote into the parent Forum regarding the attendance letter received regarding their child's attendance dipping below 95%.

JWS explained to the parent Forum that it is a statutory duty to report to parents if their child's attendance dips below 95%. The attendance letter states that a doctor's appointment card is required if there are any further absences. JWS explained that there has to be a sensible approach to this (we are all aware that the doctors' surgeries are very busy at the moment) and that if there is a further illness, it would be a good approach for the parent to ring and talk to JWS.

JWS explained that the letters are not meant to personally upset parents, only to inform them of the 95% trigger. There is no 'red flag' against any child in their future schooling.

Meeting ended at 4:45pm.

Date of Summer term meeting to be confirmed.