

Present:

Conal Holmes (Headteacher); Mrs Eccleson (Thomas Y3); Angela Slater (Emma Y3); Lisa Bowness (Harry Y3); Julie Roberts (Samuel Y4); Lesley Dewsbury (Grace Y4); Vicky Tierney (Abby Y4); Mel Hinchey (Lana Y5); Debbie – (Max Y3); Richard Meadows (Sam Y5); Tracy Callander (Ethan Y4); Agnes Boudes (Eugenie Y5, Gaspard Y3)

1. Introductions: All members present introduced themselves to the group.

2. Role of the Parent Forum

A meeting for parents to raise and discuss issues relating to the school and have a voice in determining future school practices and policies. There would be a proposed agenda for each meeting with all parents invited to contribute areas for discussion prior to the meeting.

3. Progress on Issues Discussed at Previous Meeting

New homework programmes have now been drawn up for each year group across the school and these were distributed. They have been discussed with staff. Issues raised in this meeting were that reading diaries seem to be a bit "hit and miss", that spellings in Y5 seemed to vary dramatically in difficulty and that homework was being marked inconsistently. CH said he would look into these issues, but hoped that parents would see greater consistency once the new programmes were launched in 2-3 weeks time. A review of the impact of the new homework programmes will take place at the next meeting.

4. Issues raised for Discussion by Parents

Mathletics:

Mathletics is an online maths resource to which the school has subscribed for a number of years. The profile has become diminished and needs to be raised once again with children and parents. All children will be issued or re-issued with log-ins and passwords. Teachers will be asked to raise profile of Mathletics during maths lessons and a workshop will be provided for parents during the Spring term.

Diaries:

These seem to be a bit hit and miss. All children will be issued with homework diaries in line with the new homework programmes. Homework tasks will be typed and clear to understand.

Marking

Parents suggested that the marking of homework would open up an effective channel of communication between parents and teachers. Parents also wondered whether spelling tests could be sent home so that they could see how their child was getting on.

Charity and Fund Raising Events

Some parents have expressed disappointment through social networking that the school did nothing to recognise Children in Need. CH explained the reason behind this- that some parents express dissatisfaction if we continue to ask for donations, however small. It was proposed that the school consult parents on which charity events the school should support throughout the year or to consider having one designated charity each year that all fund raising would go towards. It was requested that, when organising fund raising events, the needs of working parents could be taken into account.

5. Questionnaire Feedback

Results of the July Pupil and Parent questionnaires were distributed and the following issues arose from the discussion:

1. I know how well my child is progressing (88%). It was suggested that a copy of the maths targets which children have at the front of their books could be sent home so that parents could see which areas their children need to work on.
2. I know who the school governors are (42%): Parents would like to know more about what the role of school governors is and what the relationship between parents and the governors should look like. Parents felt that if the parent governors were well known to all parents generally, then this would allow more informal discussions to take place on the school playground.
3. I have not experienced bullying in school (74%): A brief discussion took place in which CH explained some of the steps that the school took to address bullying issues. It was proposed that children in each year group could have a mentor to go to if they needed to talk to someone about this issue.

Spring and Summer Term Meetings:

Items for future forum meetings were suggested. These included: Bullying, Healthy Eating, and School involvement in the community. It was proposed that meetings continue to take place on a half-termly basis.

Parent View

CH briefly mentioned OFSTED's Parent View website and asked parents to bear this in mind if they wished to leave feedback on the school.

**The meeting finished at 7.30pm
END**

