

Parent Forum Minutes; Tuesday 3rd May 2016

Present: Helen Eccleson, Lisa Williams, Denise Malcolm, Jenni Stone, Lesley Dewsbury

Apologies: Julie Roberts, Ian Johnson

Issues Arising from Previous Meeting(s):

Playground Path- It was requested that the path used by parents to get from the back gate to the playground be widened in order to accommodate more comfortably the number of people who use it at key times of the day. This path will now be widened in the near future.

Issues for Discussion raised by Parents:

1: Extra Curricular Activities

One child had not initially received a place on the club requested, despite returning the slip to school the following day. Although the matter had been resolved promptly, the parent was keen to know how the school went about allocating places to pupils.

CH said that the school tried to allocate places on a first-come, first-served basis, but this raised a number of issues which the school is now seeking to address. He compared two children- one who had received places on a number of different clubs, and another who requested one place and did not get it. He proposed that in future, children could number their selections in order of priority, and the school would endeavour to ensure that all children were allocated their first choice club. This received a favourable response.

2. 11+

This continues to cause some anxiety amongst Y5 parents. However, CH had attended a presentation by CEM earlier that afternoon and was able to confirm that children would take the 11+ at Brackenwood and that teachers would spend some time with children going through the familiarisation leaflet. Parents expressed that concerns were more related to test format than content. CH informed parents that he had requested a copy of the presentation so that he could offer the same presentation to Y5 parents later this term. Parents thought this briefing would be useful.

3. Sports Day

No starting time had been given on the newsletter. This was confirmed as 2.00pm.

One parent wondered whether it could become more traditionally competitive. CH responded by saying that the current format seemed to be successful. Positive feedback had been received from a number of parents and all children are involved at all times. In addition, it emphasises team-work whilst retaining a more competitive element. In order to celebrate the achievement of individual children, however, CH said he would consider ways of integrating some form of individual awards.

4. School Trips

CH informed parents that trips to the Learning Lighthouse, the Discovery Centre and Wirral Works would no longer take place as they had unfortunately lost their funding. The school has supported these centres as much as possible in the past and hoped that some form of outreach might take place so that the children could continue to enjoy some of the activities that they offered.

5. BFG Easter Hunt

One parent requested that the BFG be acknowledged for the Easter Hunt. This was a great idea which those who took part in thoroughly enjoyed.

6. Attendance

One parent, unable to attend the meeting, asked how the school tracked children's attendance and what strategies were used to raise attendance levels.

CH responded that persistent absentees (those whose attendance drops below 90%) are identified each term. Their attendance records are discussed with a Social Welfare Officer and additional steps taken where appropriate. Parents will receive letters addressing concerns and offering support, and attendance of these children is monitored for improvement.

7. Future of Parent Forum

Parents were keen for this forum to continue into next year, and that meetings worked well on a half-termly basis. CH proposed having a school email address that parents could write to with questions or feedback, and this could form the basis of future discussion.

Parents also raised the idea of having Parent Forum representatives that were made known to all parents. Some people might prefer to raise concerns with reps rather than the head-teacher.

8. AOB

Academies: Was the head-teacher considering converting the school into an academy?

CH responded that, as academy conversion was likely to become statutory for all maintained schools by 2022, this was likely to be the case. No more details were given.

Parent Pay

Parents reported that this was working very successfully and were wanting to know if it could be extended to other things ASAP. Drama club was particularly problematic with Carl requesting £3 per week. CH to follow up.

Summer Fair

Parents were very pleased that this was going ahead after all, as last year's event had been a huge success.

Y2/3 Transition

Please could parents have a little more notice of requests for help? Two parents were keen to offer their help at this event, but could not arrange time of work at such short notice.

Could the school get feedback from new parents at the end of the first half-term?. This would enable the school to improve the transition process.

END