

Present:

Headteacher, Lesley Dewsbury, Lynne Gulliver, Sarah Heathcote, Sarah Hill, Rachel Kelleher, Cathy Lockett, Julie Roberts, Angela Slater, Karen Stuart, Stephen Stuart, Liz Tudor, Bill Wilson

Purpose and Impact of Parent Forum

The headteacher explained the purpose of Parent Forum Meetings- to enable parents to express views, offer feedback, raise issues and bring new ideas to the school. He presented a list which summarised some of the impact that Parent Forum Meetings had had over the last two years:

- * New Parent Consultation format
- * Opportunities to meet music teachers
- * Club Taster Sessions
- * Forest Schools
- * Widening of school path to rear entrance
- * Y2/3 Transition arrangements
- * Development of current Homework Policy.
- * Reduction in numbers of letters sent home.
- * Certificates for 100% attendance.
- * Playground gate supervision at 8.45am to prevent children walking back out.
- * Development of a Sun Safety Policy

Issues Raised by Parents:

Religious Education

One parent enquired about the school's approach to teaching Religious Education. The Headteacher explained that the school adopted a broadly Christian ethos but the beliefs of all religions were taught across the school. Some Religious Education also focused on the character and attitude of virtuous people, and explored concepts such as what it is like to be caring etc. Partnerships are formed with local churches and people from these churches are invited to come and speak at whole school events, such as the Carol Concert and Harvest Assembly.

Parking Outside School

Parents expressed very serious concerns about the inconsiderate attitudes of a minority when dropping children off and picking up. Problems occurred at both school gates and involved drivers parking on zig-zags, pulling up into the access road that is reserved for deliveries, reversing dangerously and reacting aggressively when addressed by other parents. A number of suggestions were made by parents in regard to how this issue might be tackled. Strategies included:

- having an increased presence
- writing to parents
- talking to other schools
- putting out cones
- using community patrol more regularly
- getting the children involved

The headteacher recognised the severity of the issue and promised to consider ways in which the school might respond.

Quizlet

One parent made the group aware of a new educational APP called Quizlet, which could be used by teachers and parents to create interactive games and quizzes for the children. A second parent mentioned Squeebles. The headteacher said he would pass the information onto the school's ICT coordinator and bring it to the attention of parents on the next newsletter.

Issues Raised by the Headteacher:

Open Evening

Parents felt that this had been a very successful event and mentioned in particular:

- how nice it was to be able to see children's classrooms,
- that it was less rushed than conventional parent consultation evenings
- that it was beneficial to meet other staff, such as teaching assistants and those who taught specialist subjects,
- that the stalls in the hall worked well,
- that the pupils who helped did a tremendous job.

It was suggested that it might not have been entirely clear that this replaced the usual one-one consultation and that their children were allowed to attend.

September Curriculum Meetings

Parents expressed that they were happy with the structure of these meetings and found them interesting and informative. One parent asked for a reminder to be sent out on ParentMail in the run-up to the event, while another said that the timings of the meetings made it difficult for working parents to attend.

Year 2/3 Transition

Y3 parents in attendance felt that the transition into Year 3 had been smooth and successful and that there had been few, if any, concerns. They said that it had been helpful for the children to be invited up to the school on three or four occasions during Y2. Other parents asked whether new initiatives discussed at previous Parent Forum meetings, such as the Buddy system, had been beneficial. Year 3 parents felt that they had. One parent said that her child was very excited after receiving a welcome letter from Mrs Webster during the summer holiday. The headteacher said that he would write to all Year 3 parents before the end of term to seek their views on possible ways to improve the transition process.

One parent expressed concerns regarding KS2 / 3 (Y6-Y7) transition and described the move to secondary school as quite a shock for some children. Other parents agreed. Parents wondered whether more could be done for Y6 children towards the end of the school year to prepare them more for High School.

Parent and Pupil Questionnaire

The headteacher shared the results of the most recent questionnaire. Some of the lower scoring categories were examined more closely within the context of numbers of people responding and the difference in response across year groups. There had been a total of 66 respondents to the questionnaire, making each respondent worth 1.5%. This would require three year trends to be treated with caution. Parents requested whether the questionnaire could be done by email in future and the headteacher said he would look into this. The headteacher intended to write to all parents before the end of term with the results of the questionnaire and intended actions in response to it.

AOB:

Firework and Bonfire Safety Assembly: Parents reported that some children found the DVD used in this assembly very scary and wondered whether this could be addressed differently in future.

Homework: A number of issues arose regarding children's homework. One task in Year 4 had come home with the wrong date on it, while another task was sent home on yellow paper so that the task (which was in colour) could not be completed. One parent felt that Y3 children receive too much homework which needed to be done daily, but the consensus was that children were given a whole week to complete each task, so more time could be spent on homework at weekends. Parents requested that spelling tests in Y4 and Y5 were carried out more sensitively (not mark each other's work or call out scores in front).

Parents felt that the Homework Diaries were working really well, especially in Year 5.

11+: Year 6 parents reflected on what it was like to support children through the new 11+ system. The headteacher explained that the school was now in a better position to inform parents of the process and would hold an information meeting soon for current Y4 and Y5 parents. Parents recognised that the school is not able to train the children in regards to the 11+ but wondered whether some broader test technique could be taught (ie- completing tests in a certain amount of time).

The meeting finished at 7.35pm