

Parent Forum Wednesday 18th October 2017

Present:

Anne Booth (Assistant Head and Year 3 Teacher)

Nicola Howarth (Chairperson PTFA)

Paula English (Golden Eagle class rep)

Sam Holmes (Goldfinch class rep)

Lorraine Smith (Golden Eagle class rep)

Carly Sykes (Butterflies class rep)

Helen Heal (Dragonflies class rep)

Louise Fox (Zebra and Osprey class rep)

Julie Glover (Lions class rep)

Apologies for absence:

Kerry Sullivan (Parent Forum Co-ordinator)

Amanda Webb (Parent Forum Co-ordinator)

Agenda

1. **Sharing my learning**
2. **Curriculum Evening**
3. **Pen licensing**
4. **Anti-Bullying**
5. **Year 3 transition**

1. **Sharing my learning**

Most frequent feedback from the 'sharing my learning' session was that they were very close in regards to diary timings - to both the Curriculum evening and Parents evening.

Issues mainly focused on timings (of sessions), awareness of the sessions (i.e. communication or lack thereof) and understanding of these sessions (i.e. purpose and structure).

Discussed whether there should just be one event per term but this may exclude many parents from attending these sessions due to work commitments etc.

Actions (Actioner):

- I. Need to find out reasons why parents don't go (TBC – parent reps?)
- II. Marking codes need to be explained so that parents understand what it means in the workbooks (To be shared by teachers/accessible at next share my learning)
- III. Should be explained to parents what it is about so that they know what to expect (TBC)

- IV. Need to inform parents how different it is to Infant school and manage parent's expectations i.e. books will not be laid out on tables, children are expected to show their parents around their classrooms and get their own books out to show their work
- V. Message about what it is about and opportunity to have a look at work (TBC – include in dates email?)
- VI. Is it necessary to have share my learning in 1st term? (To be discussed in the next Parent Forum?)
- VII. Communication of timings/reminder to be shared on Facebook and via email

2. Curriculum evening

Overall feedback was extremely positive (from parents). This was the first time that the school had organised a curriculum evening. The focus (of the evening) was on the marking codes, values and behavioural systems the school has in place. Slides from the evening were shared on the school website. However, it was noted that some parents have found the website can be a bit difficult to navigate and therefore were not able to easily access the information. The link to this information could be shared in an email with the minutes from this forum meeting.

Some parents did feel that it would be beneficial to have more emphasis on maths methods that the children will be using in class - so that parents have a better understanding and can help support their children at home. The possibility of running another maths workshop in future was raised as a potential solution during this discussion.

Some parents were unable to attend due to the timing of the event. Is there the potential to move the start time to later in the evening? However, in this instance a Year 5 'Little Canada' meeting was held immediately after but would have limited the opportunity to push the start time back.

3. Pen License

Some children were awarded a pen license in Year 2 and have had it taken away from them in Year 3. This has caused some upset and confusion amongst children and parents.

New guidelines are now in place to help children to meet the increased expectations set by the curriculum. These are displayed in classrooms e.g. writing needs to be consistent, stay within the lines etc. as to how children can meet the expectations and be awarded a pen license.

Parents of children in older years did not feel that their children were concerned about going back to pencils as it had been enforced across the school.

4. Library

It was reported that not all children have been to the library and some parents were unsure as to how the library system works. Every child will have visited the library by the end of this term and each class has been allocated a 30-minute slot. Unfortunately, the increased curriculum means that a weekly class visit can no longer be accommodated in the school week. Children can go to the library at break or their lunchtime and after school with parents/carers/childminders and other defined carers. This needs to be reiterated as an option to parents and carers so that they can take their children to the library after school. In the first week (of the first school term), all Year 3 children visited the library. However, some children declined the opportunity to go to the library during their break time as they preferred to play.

Scheduled timings for Library access:

Monday - Year 3

Tuesday - Year 4

Thursday - Year 5

Friday - Year 6

5. Anti-bullying

The school takes a zero-tolerance approach to bullying. Procedures are in place that the school adheres to if someone has been bullied and all incidents are recorded internally. The school holds regular assemblies around the JET values, an anti-bullying week (starting on 13th Nov) and a Cultural diversity day. Children's Rights and Responsibilities are set out in the school Charter. In PSHE, they have circle time where they approach subjects on what constitutes a good citizen, internet safety, cyber bullying, and provide an opportunity to air any concerns.

Karen Allen- Parent corner Family support worker

Dylan Rixon – JET Trust Parent Support

Mrs. Kavanagh – ELSA (Emotional and literacy support worker) is often in the playground to help resolve friendship disputes.

Would be helpful to hold an evening when parents can attend with their children, and another one just for parents to discuss concerns and obtain advice.

6. Year 3 transition

It was acknowledged that there are increased expectations for children entering year 3 and that the school try to make this a smooth process. Some parents suggested holding playtimes in the afternoons to make the daily routine more like the last term of infants. The children already have PE on Mon & Wed, exercise either outdoor or Zumba style in the classroom on Tues & Thurs and MOOT on Friday afternoons. There is a challenge to fit this

in alongside the curriculum, but it has been prioritised to help with the transition. MOOT will continue until Christmas.

It was felt that year 2 parents should be informed that reading levels will be 're-set' on transfer to junior school and that the children are allowed to choose their own books as free-reading.

7. AOB:

Positive comments- Christmas dates came out early this year and inset days.

The feedback from the Little Canada trip was very positive.

Year 6 'Watercress Line' trip was a great success and pupils and parents appreciated the staff giving up their free time.

Curriculum evening positive experience from Year 6

Facebook – the official school facebook groups will display photos from school trips etc. Only children who have signed the agreement for photos to be taken will be shown in these photos. The ability to tag and comment on these photos has been removed to prevent them from travelling further on social media.

Children who lack confidence will be encouraged to get involved on a regular basis. Events such as the fashion show is very inclusive and ensures that every child plays their part. House Captains also change every term so there are opportunities throughout the time at school.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the forum topics and discussions. We were unable to cover everything that was raised by parents during the meeting so any outstanding items will be rolled over to the next forum. Any urgent issues may be raised between forums by contacting the Parent Forum Co-ordinators, Amanda Webb and Kerry Sullivan.