

PARENT FORUM – MINUTES

FRIDAY 28th SEPTEMBER 2018 9.00 am

Attendees: 14 Parents

Mrs Fairweather – Interim Headteacher

Ms Brooks – Deputy Headteacher

Mrs Worrall – Minute Taker

Mrs Fairweather introduced LB our new Deputy Headteacher to all present and welcomed all parents. The agenda items for the meeting were handed out and MF thanked parents for the agenda items. All parents attending were reminded that this forum was to discuss overall issues.

Topics of Discussion

Timings of briefing meetings to improve attendance

Mrs Fairweather mentioned we had an attendance of 8 parents at the E-Safety Course that was organized by school. We all need to encourage other parents to come. We welcome suggestions from parents about what time would best suit or what can we do to get more parents to attend. Is it worth putting out a survey to get feedback from parents?

Parent Feedback:

- Daytime sessions if possible
- Later in the evening would work better and enable working parents to come
- Single parents will find morning sessions easier
- An evening and a morning session would be ideal

New Parents Evening for Prospective Reception Families

Mrs Fairweather confirmed our 'New to Reception Parent Meeting' will be held on 8th November at 7.30 pm in the Hall. MF is consulting with LIDL to put a banner about our open evening outside Lidl. MF would like ideas on how we can reach more families.

Parent Feedback:

- Speak to Estate Agents to put up Billboards
- Chessington Chat
- South of the Borough Facebook pages
- Next Door Magazine/Website
- Welcoming parents to classrooms to see children working

Morning Interventions

We have invited 60 children to our current intervention sessions that are run every morning from Monday to Thursday. We are aware writing is a big issue and children who are receiving PPG are not making the progress they should. First phase of intervention is to give children the extra intensive support to boost them. We will hold progress meetings with staff members your child is working

with to identify who needs to stay on for the next term. One of the key parts is precision teaching. MF mentioned we are not currently making any provision for Siblings.

Parent Feedback:

- Are you still running interventions throughout the day?
- It is good you are holding progress meetings to identify the needs
- Will the library be an option to accommodate sibling's?

MF mentioned we are eventually trying to carry out interventions during lunchtime. At the moment the focus is on lessons in class.

We are still looking at options as we need to first establish the number of parents/children needing the sibling care but at the moment we are not offering any provision for siblings.

School Website and other Social Media

We are aware that our Twitter and Facebook links are out of date. We will not sort it out until we are able to populate the situation.

Parent Feedback: All agreed

Signs at the front and back of School

We are looking at trying to change the signs but not going to spend a lot to do that. At the moment Ms Brooks our Deputy Headteacher is permanent but we still have an Interim Headteacher in place. It does not make sense to spend a lot of money at this moment.

Parent Feedback: All agreed

Classes to Visit Old Peoples Home – Learn and Interact

One of our aims at Ellingham is to make sure our children become good citizens. We are looking at the wider community to build links. MF mentioned we had a celebration tea party in our Library for a few children from Year 6 who achieved their targets. It was lovely to see the enthusiasm on our children's faces as they entered the library. We talked to them about how to conduct themselves and to get to know each other.

Parent Feedback:

- Old people's home for children to visit during the festive season
- Local churches
- King Centre – see what they can offer
- Chessington Chat
- See if anybody in need in the local community, perhaps small groups

MF and LB to action.

Mile a day challenge

Research shows that the daily mile gets children out of the classroom for fifteen minutes every day to run or jog, at their own pace, with their classmates, making them fitter, healthier, and more able to concentrate in the classroom.

MF mentioned we are looking at introducing but not there yet. We are looking at Friday morning from next half-term but yet to be decided. MF has discussed options with coaches, older children to do circuits with the support of coaches. We are hoping to introduce by invitation only at this point. We all need to encourage our children to walk more, eat healthier and to be physically active. The more we get children walking the better it is for their well-being.

Parent Feedback:

- Park vehicles further away to encourage walking to school
- Get the children running three times a week in the afternoon

MF and LB to action.

Holiday Clubs – more notice

We are very aware that we have inherited a change of provision and a lot has changed. We are looking at what school can offer. We will update parents as and when we decide.

Parent Feedback:

- Over the summer BE Sports prices were very cheap and it worked very well for parents
- The timings of holiday clubs don't work for working parents as clubs finish very early

MF and LB to action.

After school clubs

Parent Feedback:

- Previously we used to get a lot of free clubs run by school, can we look into introducing that again
- All the clubs are now paid clubs and have got more expensive over the last year. Before there was sibling discount and other discounts
- Clubs run for a lot shorter period compared to other schools during term time
- Content of some of the clubs is not at all reflecting to the amount of money clubs charge
- School need to put in an expectation of standards from all clubs
- Football club is held in a classroom when it is raining, parents are paying a substantial fee for the club not for their children to sit in the classroom
- Parents are not happy to pay for their children doing nothing
- Art club – Children are finding it boring and are coming home with a really poor quality of work
- Spanish Amigos – Children love going as they get a sweet at the end. All they do in class is copy what is on the board
- Variety in clubs

MF mentioned we can set up expectations with club providers. MF and LB to action.

Levels for reading for each year – progression of colours for book bands

We will email these out to all parents and update on our Website after we do a session.

Parent Feedback: None

Partnership between governors and FOE

We need to have a full capacity of governors to help us move the school forward. We are currently looking for people with professional skills to join the team as a Co-Opted governor.

Parent Feedback: None

AOB

Security of School – MF mentioned the back gate was broken and we have now had it fixed. Please report when things go wrong so we can action ASAP.

Parent questioned if the gates are monitored and how do we prevent strangers from walking in.

MF mentioned we have cameras to monitor and, on the occasion, that we don't recognize someone at the gates, the office staff pick up the phone and question them before allowing them in.

Parent mentioned lately there is no member of staff to monitor gates on both ends to make sure children are not escaping once parents have left them on the playground.

MF will make sure we have a member of staff present at both gates.

MF mentioned the Health and Safety walk on Monday and will look at points raised relating to safety around school.

Playground Update – We are currently getting quotes to astro the playground. FOE have helped to get new furniture. Our library is now open during lunchtimes and is supervised by a member of staff if children want a cooler and quieter place to be in.

Parent mentioned in the light of last summer and exposure to sun during breaktimes and lunchtimes.

MF is aware of the need to create a place with ample shade and for children to sit in a nice quiet place if they need to. MF is looking at options and will keep parents updated.

MF also mentioned parents need to apply suns cream on children before coming to school.

Class Representatives – Parent mentioned we need more class representatives; will the school get involved in appointing them.

MF mentioned this is something parents do themselves. MF will put a little article in the Newsletter to inform parents that FOE are currently looking for class representatives.

FOE to put a little job description to show parents what it entails.

Homework – Parents were a bit confused as to the arrangement of Homework system. Please can a clearer message be sent out to parents to inform them of how this will work.

LB mentioned homework will be emailed out every Wednesday and paper copies will be available in the school office for anyone who need one. We will update the website with the Homework every week.

Parent mentioned a clear message needs to be given to parents that this is the new system in place.

Parent asked if there will be other subject tied in Homework other than Key Skills?

LB mentioned at the moment we are focusing on Key Skills.

Parents are very happy with the new homework system and feel it works well for the children.

LB mentioned Homework Club will run on a Thursday if children need support.

Spelling – Parent enquired if children will bring spelling books home so parents can see how they have done. Last year the spelling test was stuck to the back pages and sent home for parents to see what they achieved.

MF and LB to action.

MF thanked everyone for attending.

Next Parent Forum TBC.

Meeting ended at 10.10 am