

## **PARENT/CARER FORUM MINUTES - FRIDAY 7<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2019 at 9.00 am**

Attendees: 6 Parents

Mrs. Fairweather – Interim Headteacher – MF

Ms. Brooks – Deputy Headteacher - LB

Mrs. Worrall – Minute Taker

Mrs. Fairweather thanked parents for the agenda items and handed them out to all present.

### **Topics of Discussion**

#### **Parking**

MF – We are very concerned about the safety of our children. Families and St Philip's shouldn't have to put up with inconsiderate or unsafe behavior. The local authority is looking into putting up cameras in the Harrow Close area. A private company is subcontracted by the Local Authority to carry out these plans. Meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> September will update local schools about proposed plan, if it has the authority to go ahead.

Parent Feedback:

- Parents attending the meeting are in agreement that this needs to change.
- Can the space be used by the school to run activities during school time, thus closing the car park to visitors?

MF – Unfortunately the area belongs to the local authority and there isn't much we can do. We are working with the local authority and the neighboring schools to ensure safety and well-being of children.

#### **Balls In School**

MF – Children are not allowed to bring balls to school as it is a health and safety risk. Also, if children lose them in school it puts us in a difficult position.

LB – We have allocated a ball to each class. Children have access to it during playtime and lunchtime.

#### **Bullying**

MF – We have very clear steps in school to tackle incidents relating to bullying. We have recently bought into a software that helps us track incidents within school. The software application helps us monitor and maintain a whole range of pastoral and welfare issues. The software can be accessed by all staff to log incidents. In case of an incident anywhere/anytime in school, member of staff can alert Senior Leaders straight away. We also log any meetings we have had with parents and actions we have taken in response to incidents.

LB – We have also bought into a PSHE scheme of work. PSHE curriculum will help us to give children the voice to tell us so we can intervene as and where necessary.

MF: We are hoping that making PSHE a key part of the curriculum will empower children to confidently report incidents, manage friendships and potentially challenging situations.

LB – We also sought external support to advise staff. We are all working on changing the mindset of our children.

Parent Feedback:

- Please put up signs around school on doors/windows to make children and parents aware of how you deal with bullying within the school.
- Make it more visual around the school that you track incidents and take actions as this will empower children who are reluctant to speak out.
- Display on Noticeboards, windows and in classrooms about new CPOMs software that has been introduced.

MF – Will look into this and get back to parents.

### **My School App**

MF – We are looking to introduce the App to parents in the next couple of weeks. My School App makes it easy to keep parents up to date with what is happening in school. The app translates into 60 different languages so we can reach our wider community. We need parents to sign up to trial the app.

MF – Once the App is up and running our Website will be just for front of house and we will have information that we need to be legally up there. All news, letters and updates will come to parents via the app.

Parent Feedback:

- Two parents have signed up to trial the app.
- Does the school still use Twitter and Facebook to communicate with parents?

MF – Have not been using Facebook and Twitter. The new headteacher may have other plans.

### **School approach to Racism**

MF – We track and manage every incident. We are bound by local authority to report every incident to them that is related to racism. We do need to embrace the importance of tolerance of the wider world. Some children are picking up language that they are not aware of the significance of or why people might find it offensive. Unfortunately, technology exposes children to unpleasant language and 'normalises' it. The school works hard to challenge this and educate the children through assemblies, RE and PSHE. Experience of the wider world will help with this aim. We are reviewing our curriculum to reflect this intention. The school wants to encourage children to see the similarities in their differences.

Parent Feedback:

- Parent works for a charity and offered to organise a link with schools in other countries - videos/letters. She is happy to set this up if we as a school would be interested.

### **Scooters in School**

MF – We will put a reminder in the Newsletter to remind parents that children should not ride their scooters in school. We are urging our families to support us with this.

Parent Feedback:

- Some parents don't take kindly to being told their children should not be riding their scooters in school.

MF – Will think of a way to empower parents on approaching others in a polite manner.

### **Nursery Next Year**

MF – We will be running a morning only Nursery provision from September 2019. Our numbers for nursery have been impacted by the increase in provisions that offer wrap-around care in the local area.

We have recruited a very good nursery teacher who is very passionate about joining our team. The new nursery teacher will be attending the Reception and Nursery Meetings with new parents. There are plans to run 'Stay and Play' sessions and parent courses in the afternoons to engage the community before they even start at Ellingham.

### **Exit Interviews**

MF – We do need to capture feedback from our parents/children so that we can celebrate what we do well at Ellingham and look at where we can improve. We will think of a way we facilitate this.

Parent Feedback:

- There will be mixed feelings amongst parents and children.
- Some parents will use this as a platform to moan about everything.

MF – We are aware of this but we do need to hear what parents/children have to say. It is very important that we respond to concerns as they are raised and constantly look to make improvements.

### **Budget**

MF – We have a meeting scheduled for 4<sup>th</sup> July at 6.30 pm in the School Hall to give parents information about budgeting changes.

Parent Feedback:

- We are very disappointed that Music and Art has been taken out of the curriculum.
- Clarinet lessons in Year 5 are not very popular as parent feels children are not really getting much out of it.
- Check with children what instrument they would like to play.
- Swimming this year for year 3 – is there any evaluation of the lessons in terms of the requirement that children need to swim at least 25 meters by the end of all the lessons.

- Is swimming part of the curriculum.

MF – I understand that as the school was moving from a one form of entry to two forms of entry we had some empty classrooms which were used for art and music. The rooms are now classrooms but we still teach those subjects. We are lucky we work very closely with Kingston Music Services who offer children a wide range of lessons within school and outside school. We also have a relationship with other music providers who come in and do workshops with the children.

MF – We are going back to drumming for Year 5 from next year instead of clarinet.

MF – Swimming lessons are part of the national curriculum. We understand the requirement for children to be able to swim 25m by the end of their time at primary school. For this reason we have changed the way we organised swimming this year. The PE coordinator will be looking to make sure this has been achieved over time and taking action where it hasn't yet been achieved. We have also tried to plan the lessons for the whole year group to ensure it doesn't disrupt children's learning.

### **AOB**

Parent Feedback:

- Will the minutes from the parent forum be emailed out to parents?
- When will the actual transition start for our New Headteacher?
- When is Mrs. Fairweather contracted to work until – will she support with the transition?

MF:

- We will email the minutes out to parents.
- Mrs. Keogh our New Head teacher will start in September. Mrs. Keogh and Mrs. Fairweather are working closely to ensure that there is a smooth transition. Both want it to be successful. Mrs. Keogh has attended governor meetings, been part of the recruitment process for new staff and participated in setting the budget for 2019/20.
- Mrs. Fairweather is contracted until 31<sup>st</sup> August. If the leadership team feels they need extra support they will get in touch with Mrs. Fairweather who will still be offering her services as an Education Consultant.

MF thanked everyone for attending.

Next Parent Forum – September TBC.

Meeting ended at 10 am