Parent Forum Meeting

Tuesday 23rd May 2023

Ms Brown welcomed parents. This was an opportunity to be able to establish closer links with parents and better lines of communication, ensuring we have representatives from the community to support our children. A place where we can express our opinions in a constructive way. We need to be clear about expectations and what is best for our children and to get to know one another.

What is a Parent Forum –The purpose of these meetings is to discuss what is working and what is not working. It is a greater opportunity for wider school participation, collaboration and concerns/issues/suggestions being heard.

What are the ground rules and expectations?

Discussing issues and hearing opinions and views and working through solutions?

We don’t want to be naming people or children. This is not an Academy Council or PTA meeting. We want to add to the richness of our school.

Code of Conduct – Confidentiality, no names, be mindful that the minutes may reflect someone you know therefore, we keep our conversations anonymous. This will reduce unnecessary and inappropriate rumours that may cause anxiety.

Forum Timing – what time is best to meet?

Would a creche, after schoolwork better for most parents?

The group talked about various times of the day and even having some parents join remotely. The after school creche was the most popular option.

It was decided to hold meetings once every half term (approximately every 6 weeks). The length of the meeting was agreed at max 45 minutes.

Uniform survey – results were about 50/50. Lots of discussion about the cost of the tartan pinafore and skirts. An option of a grey pinafore or skirt as an alternative to the tartan was discussed and agreed would be far more cost effective. Ms Brown also reminded the group of the PTA swap shop and pre-loved uniform.

The following was agreed:

* Navy cardigans and jumper – parents said they would prefer to keep the logo on these.
* Polo shirts – Pale blue for PE, navy blue or white for everyday use. These can be purchased with or without the logo.
* Grey or tartan pinafore or skirt

School to update uniform policy and distribute it to parents before the end of the summer term.

Art Lessons - Parents suggested that children bring in old shirt or apron for art lessons. These are to be kept in school.

Volunteering – DBS is needed if volunteers are to be left alone with pupils. There are various options for volunteers, not just listening to children reading. There are enrichment activities, plus helping with maths intervention lessons, training to be given. A letter will go out to parents providing an indication of the type of curriculum support parents can offer,

AOB –

* Communication is the biggest concern and more notice of events. Parents are often at work and need time to prepare. A letter with a list of dates and events will be sent out at the end of each half term for the term ahead. These dates can also be found on the school website.
* Children on scooters travelling down the main ramp straight into the road are a concern.
* Parents/Carers using the ramp to turn their cars around is very dangerous.
* The group talked about wooden people placed on the roadside at the bottom of the ramp as a warning to parents and drivers.
* Parents asked if a member of the Parent Forum could look over communications that are due to be sent out, to check that it includes all the information that parents may need.
* Ms Brown was uncomfortable with doing this as she wants all parents and carers to receive the same messages at the same time. It is the school’s responsibility to improve communication.
* It was agreed that homework and spellings would be put on the website in their child’s class area. This will be in place by next term.

Next meeting – Wednesday 28th June 2023 at 3.20pm

Crèche with film for children