

Parent Forum – Autumn Term

Friday 6th December 2019

Attendees:

Adrian Corke (AC) – Headteacher

Charlotte Holder (CH) – Parent Governor

Yin Jones – Parent Representative Yr 4

Sarah Dinsdale – Parent Representative Y1 and Y4

Laura Stewart – Parent Representative Y2

Rachel Arney – Parent Representative Y2

Heidi Ranger – Parent Representative Y6

Sati Panesar - Associate Governor (Community)

1 Welcome and apologies.

Apologies were given from Zoe Somolu (Foundation Governor) who was unable to attend and Heidi and Sati were welcomed to the meeting in their respected roles.

2 Minutes from Pilot Forum on 12th July 2019

The minutes were agreed with no amendments required.

3 Actions/Developments from previous Meeting were then considered.

3.1 Consider how we can get parents/careers discussing school communications and feeding back.

→ Covered under Communications Discussion below.

3.2 Consider use of an electronic suggestion box (TypeFom) to support communications strategy.

→ Covered under Communications Discussion below.

3.3 The school to detail which pupils have been involved in key events throughout the year in the handover information between teachers.

→ A column has been created in the hand over sheet to detail this.

3.4 To encourage a broader achievement list which is not only focused on formal achievement

→ Not discussed and to pick up at next meeting.

3.5 AC to consider the school's communications about assessments.

→ AC completed information document regarding assessments. This received very positive feedback from the Forum and thanks to AC for completing this.

4 New Questions/Points of discussion from Class Reps.

4.1 Would it be possible for more communication to be directly with parents through email.

→ Covered under Communications Discussion below.

4.2 Would it be possible to change the lunch option system?

→ AC explained that the lunches are proved by ISS and we are therefore limited to what we can do however AC confirmed he would enquire with ISS.

4.3 Suggestion that the kids get maths sheets and not all their work on the Mathletics app.

→ AC confirmed that Mathletics is an expensive tool so the school would continue to encourage its use.

Additionally, it was also noted that the school receive positive feedback on Mathletics and that a number of kids really enjoy it. Using the package also cuts down on the amount of paper the school use. Discussion continued detailing that there are other optional extras that could be used alongside Mathletics if wanted and that with the other weekly homework a range of approaches are used – reading comprehension, handwriting etc.

4.4 How to continue to build a strong culture of parent school engagement and encourage effective and respectful communication channels across all members of the school community.

→ Covered under Communications Discussion below.

4.5 How to foster a positive culture of feedback and empower parents to raise concerns and suggestions for improvement.

→ Covered under Communications Discussion below.

4.6 Whether the school might consider an 'after club care'.

→ AC confirmed that unfortunately this is not a feasible option. The hall would be the only useable location which would mean that a number of clubs may then not be able to run. Additionally the school would need to staff it and it is not currently viable.

5. Communications Discussion.

5.1 The Forum discussed at length the Communication issues detailed in the old and new action points. The Forum discussed the range of communication methods already available at the school, the potential use of Class Reps to highlight what communication has been sent out to parents/careers and the possibility of trying a new system through TypeForms. The group discussed the balance of responsibility between ensuring the most appropriate method is used but also the parent/carers responsibility to ensure they check/question/ask. The Forum also discussed how to support parent/careers who were apprehensive about communicating with the school and how the school can support and facilitate this. A number of actions were agreed during the discussion.

- Communications should be a Standing Agenda Item.
- SP to research and consider use of TypeForms, especially to consider if it adds anything above and beyond the systems already in place.
- Consider the current available Communication systems and ensure parents/careers are aware of all options – it was noted that we have a Parent Letterbox and that this could be used more if parents wanted to put issues forward to the school, even anonymously if required.

6. Discussion about Question 10 from Parent Questionnaire 2018-19

In my opinion...	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
I receive valuable information from this school about my child's progress, enabling me to support their learning (including their annual school report, Parent Interviews and half-termly curriculum plans)	46%	41%	11%	1%	1%

6.1 The Forum discussed that there was a high % of responses that disagreed on Question 10 in comparison to other questions on the Parent Questionnaire. The group discussed what the school offer throughout the year, how they have recently added Open Classrooms and that the teachers are always available to meet if required. The discussion continued to consider whether this is appropriately notified to parent/careers and perhaps it was that parent/carers weren't aware of the options available. Additionally, it was noted that the school offer a number of interventions and additional lessons which aren't always notified to the parents/careers and that this is a real positive that parents/careers should be aware of. It was considered whether these could be written in the homework diaries?

7. Chair and Secretary Positions

7.1 Not discussed – Carry over to next meeting

8. AOB

8.1 It was recommended that an Action Log was created for the Forum Meetings.

9. Date of Next Meeting

9.1 To be agreed.