

Parents' forum agenda - 21st February 2023 at 10.30am

In attendance: Gemma Hiller (HT), Vicki Marshall (DHT) Liz Taylor (Y3/5 parent), Alison & Mike Smith (YR parent), Joanne Lindsay (YR parent) Apologies: Heather Reading, Jenny Williams, Victoria Friel,		
Agenda item	Discussion points	Actions required and who
Matters arising	No previous meeting	
Notification of AOB	Parents evenings	
Homework	<p>Reception -get phonics homework</p> <p>Y3 and 5 - consistent amount; times tables, spellings, reading activity and reading 3 x per week</p> <p>Helpful if all in on the same day</p> <p>Homework a good way of knowing what they are doing at school</p> <p>Want to know that they are capable of doing - more feedback. Mrs Watson is always there to ask. Maybe say what they are doing each week.</p> <p>Short, specific tasks - not too</p> <p>Homework teaches a discipline - extension of class; proportional to age; teaches them to use their initiative, be independent</p> <p>Holiday homework - good to a degree; get parents involved</p> <p>Nice to have some down time - recharge; perhaps do a writing activity to cement what they did in their holidays, rather than spellings.</p> <p>Not a fan of certificates to reward homework; if optional task completed, they shouldn't be forced to share it but should be given as an option. Homework should be recognised for</p>	<p>SLT to agree on consistency of homework to include:</p> <p>Should be age appropriate</p> <p>Holiday homework?</p> <p>Certificates used as rewards are not fair if homework is given as a choice?</p> <p>Consequence for no homework</p>

	<p>effort, however (or it demotivates the children)</p> <p>Communication with parents is important if how couldn't be done. If this is regular, they could come to homework club.</p> <p>There was a discussion about whether it should be the parent's decision whether homework should be completed.</p> <p>VM proposed there was a minimum time the children could complete homework.</p> <p>One system would be appreciated and consistent across school. Communication between parents need to be better.</p> <p>Projects - once per term is OK if relevant to their learning.</p> <p>Reading journal- every week is a lot - if the children do not like writing</p> <p>Spellings - sentences are good.</p> <p>We need a name for YR-Y2! (Used to be 'infants')</p>	<p>SLT to consider a name for 'infants'</p>
<p>Enrichment opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -trips -music 	<p>Do we do enough of this as a school?</p> <p>Do YR do any music? There should be more music from a music specialist. More of a focus on the Arts.</p> <p>This will have a financial implication.</p> <p>Local music teachers to come in and do assemblies; peri teachers to teach whole year groups eg brass, guitars, ukelele etc</p> <p>YR would do clubs - they only have one on offer so far.</p> <p>There was a discussion about sports funding and which pots of money pay for what clubs and trips. GH talked about Sports Partnership funding.</p> <p>LT talked about what the PTA money pays for (enriching the children's experience) and needs to be for all the children's benefit.</p> <p>What school offers is really good in terms of trips</p>	<p>School to research peri music opps for year groups.</p>

	<p>and experiences.</p> <p>We offer one a term in terms of trips or experiences Perhaps communicate this to parents.</p>	School to communicate frequency of trips to parents
<p>Behaviour in school</p> <p>-bullying</p> <p>-values</p> <p>education</p>	<p>What have you seen so far in terms of behaviour in school?</p> <p>Children seem really lovely. Feedback in newsletter is good eg feedback from public. Issues addressed immediately and felt understood and school takes things seriously. Want to know how they interact in Reception and who they play with.</p> <p>Very happy with the school - no concerns. It is part of the world we live in - the children need to work out for themselves how to behave - can't rely on the adults all the time - it is '<i>as near to perfect as you can get</i>'.</p> <p>Values has always been strong core and helped the children with behaviour. Friendly and loving school - builds character, not just the learning by developing the whole child.</p> <p>There is a very good culture in the school - GH on gate shows the culture - being there and smiling. Needs to come from the top down. Feel confident to take child to school and be heard. Comes across very well (the culture).</p> <p>Peers have always been supportive of each other - children see how challenging behaviour is being dealt with well - this has been fed back to parents.</p> <p>Noticing more lively children around but no increase in poor behaviour.</p> <p>It has surprised me how many children need support but the school deals with it well. Good to have transparency from school.</p> <p>Can say that they have been distracted by children around them - parent advised them to talk to their teacher about it. They may be quieter children who may not say anything.</p>	
Communication	<p>How do you find the communication?</p> <p>Rather there was too much than not enough.</p>	School to decide on one

	<p>I like having emails from the school.</p> <p>Cultural thing - school wants the parents to know what is going on.</p> <p>Different channels can be challenging eg website, newsletter, Tapestry, Arbor, Dojo, emails</p> <p>Love getting dojo points</p> <p>Would be nice to have one place to receive everything. Eg website:</p> <p>More on the class page - all homework was on there; events; calendar</p> <p>Occasionally missed Dojo in terms of quick questions; agree that teachers should not be inundated with questions.</p> <p>Teachers will talk to you at the end of the day.</p> <p>Class reps were discussed but nothing has happened with regards to these roles.</p> <p>It could be that this person can feedback general feelings from the class and school could cascade.</p>	<p>consistent method of communication eg website - class pages?</p>
AOB Parents evening	<p>In person - 3 parents (but not if impedes on work load of teachers)</p> <p>Online - 1 parent or mixture (but can't see the books)</p>	<p>School to decide on parents eve format (perhaps 1 night online and 1 night in person?)</p>
Observations from YR	<p>Not getting photos every week - only group photo and only had one or two since September. Need to talk to Beth about observations/ scrapbooks.</p> <p>Nice to have these to be able to discuss what the children have done.</p>	<p>Whiteboard outside EYFS to show what the children have done today.</p> <p>GH to talk to BW about frequency of photos</p>