



**Autumn Term 2017**

**Parent Forum**

**Classes 3 and 4**

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2017

9.00 - 10.00am



Present: Mrs Robinson (HT), Mr Ellison (Chair of Governors), Mrs Lyell, Mrs McNamara, Mrs Chapman, Ms Llewellyn-Smith, Mrs Woodhead, Mrs Kernott, Mrs Kirkley, Mrs Wilson, Mrs Gill, Mrs Fullerton, Mrs Greenwood, Mr Outhwaite, Mr Cranham and Mrs Kennedy

Apologies: none received

### **1. Home/School relationship**

- Transition into new classes ~ All parents were positive about the school's transition processes. Some Year 3 parents described that their children had found the change from Class 2 to Class 3 more difficult than they had expected. Mrs R explained that the children had 3 full afternoon visits to their new classes, where they had experienced many of the new routines but the school will review these sessions for Year 3 and ensure that they meet the children's needs fully.
- Parents felt that all the staff in Classes 3 and 4 are very approachable and spoke highly of them. One parent described how a concern that she had about her daughter in Class 4 had been followed up very effectively by Mrs Fawcett.

### **2. Home/School Communication**

- Mrs R informed parents that children would receive a short report at Christmas following on from parent consultations.
- Parents reported that they had received suitable appointment times and didn't request any changes to the forthcoming parent consultations.
- Mrs R asked parents whether the Friday News was still a useful document and whether they felt it was too long etc. Parents responded that they were very happy with it and didn't request any changes. A request was made that the Friday News be displayed on the new parent noticeboard in the parent shelter so that grandparents and family and friends have access to it ~ Mrs R will follow up on this.
- Mrs R made a request that parents try and adhere to deadlines so that admin time can be used efficiently in school.

### **3. Curriculum and Homework**

- Parents felt the curriculum evenings were useful. Mrs R talked to parents about the discussion that had been held with Class 1&2 parents about whether it was necessary for Year 2 parents to attend the Class 2 one for a second year as the content was very similar. Parents agreed with these comments and so Mrs R explained in future any new content will be highlighted prior to the meeting so Year 4 and 6 parents can know whether there will be any new information and make an informed decision as to whether they need to attend the Class 3 and 4 evenings or not.

- A long discussion was held around homework. Many Year 3 parents described that their children had been struggling with their new homework activities. Parents spoke positively of the CGP Maths and English workbooks but said that their children were very reluctant to do the spelling sentence homework, because they couldn't think of sentences to include their spelling words in and found the activity repetitive. Year 4 parents said that their children had found the activities initially hard in Year 3 but now found the homework easy to complete and were able to do it independently. Some parents described that their children were unhappy and were struggling to think of ideas for the sentences and complete them in 20 mins. Mrs R asked whether parents had informed Miss Gallagher and the majority hadn't - Mrs R informed parents that it was really important that they followed school advice and stopped the activity after 20 minutes and wrote a short note to Miss Gallagher to inform her that they had struggled - without this information Miss Gallagher would assume that there were no issues and not adjust the homework she was giving out. Mrs R thanked the parents for sharing their concerns and said that she would take them back to Miss Gallagher and make some changes to the homework activities for the following week. Parents of children in other year groups voiced that their children were able, on the whole, to do their homework tasks independently, were in good routines and felt that the amount of homework was right and supportive of their child's learning.
- Parents of children in Class 4 spoke very positively of the homework diaries that the children complete each day and how they were very good preparation for secondary school.
- Mrs R informed parents that the Christmas concert will take the same format as in previous years with the children going down to South Craven School for the afternoon and then performing a one-off concert to all parents at 6:15pm. More information will follow in the Christmas newsletter.
- Mrs R discussed how much Class 3 were enjoying their cookery lessons and informed Class 4 parents that their children will have their sessions in the summer term.
- Parents reported that their children had thoroughly enjoyed the recent Class 3 trip to the Manchester Museum and also Class 4s residential to Humphrey Head. One parent described the real sense of achievement her son had felt following the residential about completing abseiling and activities at Humphrey Head.

#### **4. E -Safety Parent's Information Evening - November 22<sup>nd</sup> 7-8pm**

- Mrs R talked to parents about the forthcoming E-Safety evening and informed them that it will be led by Rebecca Swift from North Yorkshire Education department. The evening will give parents information about keeping their children safe online and updating parents on the dangers faced by young people online.

#### **5. Maths Information Evening**

- Mrs R sought parents' views about a Maths Information Evening. She discussed that parents from Classes 1 and 2 had felt that an evening for all parents of children from Class 2, 3 and 4, where parents were updated with current teaching methods for calculations and could see the whole maths learning journey, would be

more beneficial than individual Class evenings. Parents present agreed and voiced how it would be useful to have a practical evening so that they could support their children with the same methods used at school at home. Mrs R will ensure that the evening is practical.

- With the E-safety evening in November, parent consultations and other Christmas events going on, it was agreed that an evening in January/February would be good timing.

## **6. Extended Schools activities**

- Mrs R asked parents whether they felt the extended schools activities and provision were meeting children's needs. Parents were very positive that they were and that there was a good range of activities.
- A question was asked about homework clubs - Mrs Fawcett has one set up for her class and Mrs R will talk to Miss Gallagher about a Class 3 session.
- A parent raised the point that some children were attending Running Club that didn't want to be there and politely requested that places at running club shouldn't be taken by children who were not enjoying the club as it's a popular club.

## **7. Out of School Club**

- Mrs R reassured parents that any rumours about the imminent closure of the OOSC are untrue and that there will always be before and after school provision at Lothersdale School for the foreseeable future.
- A suggestion was made that the OOSC also have a parent forum so that staff could hear some of the requests of parents etc. Mrs R will talk to Debra and ask her to consider organising a Parent Forum session.

## **8. LSA**

- Mrs R highlighted that the LSA are currently fundraising for the development of the school's woodland area at the front of school. Mrs R is currently meeting contractors to plan for future developments and hopes that improvements will be made before the end of the academic year. Additional funding will also be sought from donations that have been made to school and also local trusts.

## **9. Suggestions**

- A reminder was made about the request for a handrail on the main entrance steps.
- A suggestion was made that in the information that goes out to new parents a note is made about responsible parking on the roadside as it is felt that it is often new parents that take some time to get used to the parking situation at school. Mrs R will take this forward into the induction process for new families in the future.