

## Spring Term 2015

### Parent Forum

### Classes 1 and 2

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March  
9.00 - 10.00am

Present: Mrs Robinson (HT), Mr Cranham, Mrs Kernott, Mrs Woodhead, Mrs Oddie, Mrs Smith, Mrs Taylor, Mrs Gallagher and Mr and Mrs Kirkley

Apologies: Mrs Lyell

At the beginning of the meeting Mrs Robinson reviewed the actions from the Autumn Term Parent Forum which included checking that Year 1 children had received 'Have a go' phonic writing boards to support their homework.

#### 1. Home/School Relationship

- All parents present felt that relationships between Mrs Bateman, Mrs Murray and Mrs Henderson and children were very positive and that staff followed up concerns effectively.
- Parents reported that they continue to find that the end of autumn term pupil reports provide valuable information that builds on discussions from parents consultations.
- Mrs Robinson encouraged parents to use the email facility if they wanted to contact a specific member of staff - indicating that staff would try and respond within a couple of days.

#### 2. Home/School Communication

- Everyone present felt that communication between home and school was very good.
- Mrs Robinson asked for feedback on the Friday News as it can sometimes feel that parents haven't read it! Discussions were held about whether the weekly newsletter was too long etc. All parents present said that they found the Friday News to be very valuable and no significant changes should be made. A suggestion was made to include an overview of the next week's key events, when clubs were not on and letter deadlines on the front cover of the Friday News for quick reference and this was positively supported by others. Another suggestion was that the community news could just be included once a month or on a separate community newsletter. Mrs Robinson to discuss these suggestions with staff.
- A request was made that more letters are posted on the website so that parents can access copies if they have been misplaced or not received as deadlines are often tight. Mrs Robinson agreed that this was a very good idea and that from now on school would endeavour to do so and it was a new routine that needed to be established!
- A question was asked about reporting children's absence to school when a child was poorly with something like chicken pox. Mrs Robinson stated that it was important to call on your child's first day off school and then calling in after that it depended upon the nature of the illness. Chicken Pox will usually require an absence from school of 3 - 5 days depending upon when the spots start to dry up and school will know that any following days off school are because of this. If a child is sick they are not allowed in

school until 48 hours has passed from when they last vomited. For other illnesses it is appreciated if parents make a quick call to school otherwise Mrs Ellison will call home by 9:30am to check up on why children are absent.

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

- Positive comments were made about the homework activities that children receive and their relevance to current learning. Parents felt that there was a good balance and reading books were changed regularly.
- Mrs Robinson highlighted that in the summer term Class 1 will focus on maths challenges in their homework as up until now it has been mainly focused on phonics and writing.
- Mrs Robinson also discussed the strong work that has been going on in Class 1 with 'Talking Tables'. This project has had an extremely positive impact on developing the children's creative ability and all children have made rapid progress in their writing.
- Mrs Robinson informed parents that Class 2 will be swimming on a Friday morning after the Easter holidays. The children will be taught in groups and the school has employed three of the swimming teachers from the Craven Pool to do this.
- A question was asked about whether the children in Class 2 will be going on a school trip - the answer was yes and that Mrs Henderson is looking into it.
- Mrs Robinson talked about the provision of afterschool clubs after Easter and said there would be a new Street Dance club and also drama club for younger children.
- Staff are currently starting to plan for a maths and e-safety evening in the summer term.

### **4. LSA**

- Mrs Smith and Mrs Woodhead, members of the LSA, discussed the up and coming LSA events which include a cinema night, the Town Hall Fayre and also a Bollywood night and requested support from parents in running these activities. They highlighted that even an hours help at the Town Hall Fayre would be invaluable and encouraged everyone to get involved.
- The LSA are currently raising funds to support improvements in the playground such as the purchase of some picnic benches so that the children can sit and read at playtimes or play table top games such as chess.

### **5. National Testing and Assessment**

- Mrs Robinson discussed the forthcoming Year 2 SATS and Year 1 Phonic Screening tests and highlighted that they will take place informally towards the end of May and first weeks in June. Examples of the assessment materials.
- With the introduction of the new curriculum Mrs Robinson discussed that assessment methods in school are changing and children will be assessed as 'emerging' 'expected' and 'exceeding' the expected standards for each year group.

### **6. Health and Safety**

- All parents present felt that there were no specific health and safety concerns. In addition they all felt that the school had supported parents extremely well during the

bad weather and that information had been communicated clearly to allow parents and children to travel safely.

- Mrs Robinson informed parents that the pedestrian gates on the playground are to be bolted at playtimes as part of the schools safeguarding. They will be locked from approx. 10:30- 10:45am and then 12:25 to 1:00pm. If parents require access to school between these times they will need to contact the school office prior to arrival.
- The wooden mushrooms and also the pergola are to be removed from the woodland area as they are no longer safe so no access will be allowed to this area until this has happened.

#### **7. Behaviour**

- Parents had no concerns about behaviour.

#### **8. Parent views/Suggestions for development**

- No suggestions made.