

Present: Mrs Robinson (HT), Mr and Mrs Wright, Mr Robson , Mr and Mrs Cowgill, Mrs Bradley, Mrs Driver, Mrs Platt, Mrs Parsons, Mrs Paul, Mrs Kirkbride, Mrs Chapman, Mrs Dixon, Mrs North and Mrs Jeffreys.

Apologies: none received

### 1. Home/School relationship

- All parents were very positive about Class 1 and 2s transition processes and felt their children had settled well in their new classes/year groups. Parents were complementary about the pre-visits to school for their children in the summer term, commenting that the 6 visits were more than other local primary school.
- Parents spoke highly about the 'Buddy' system and how much this had also supported their child in settling-in well to school.
- Parents felt that all the staff in Classes 1 and 2 were very approachable and spoke very highly of them.
- One parent asked that if the teachers felt their child was having any problems in any areas of school life would they contact the parents and not wait until parent consultations - The HT responded that this was very much school policy and that the staff were proactive in contacting parents and assured the parents that this would be the case if necessary.

### 2. Home/School Communication

- The HT described parents' consultation evenings so that new parents could understand how they worked. In addition she informed parents that a short report from the class teacher will be sent home at Christmas.
- The HT asked parents whether the Friday News was still a useful document and whether they felt it was too long or they didn't want a hard copy etc. Parents responded that they were very happy with it as it was, said it was a vital document and didn't request any changes.
- One parent commented on how impressed she was with the high level of communication, including texts, and felt it was amazing.
- Parents appreciated that Class 1 staff ensure that the letter wallets are checked each day and didn't report any issues with correspondence going back and forth between home/school. Class 2 parents were happy with correspondence too but felt that some of their children were struggling with remembering to empty their own letter bag now they were in class 2 and this had led to some letters to be returned to the office, not coming out of book bags for a number of days. The HT said that she would talk to Class 2 staff and ask them to keep reminding the children to empty their letter wallets at this early point in the school year.
- The HT 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 and gave them a good insight into the routines, timetables and structure of each class. Parents said they felt more informed about what their children were learning and the methods being taught. A suggestion was that the Curriculum evening for the Year 1 parents be held at the end of the summer term before they moved into Class 2, so that parents could be prepared for the transition as well. The HT welcomed this suggestion and will factor it into school plans in the summer term.
- The HT spoke to parents about the importance of reading at home and that school was finding in general that children were not reading at home as regularly as they had in the past. One parent raised that her child was not always remembering to bring her reading book home each night and could the staff in class 2 ensure that they did. The HT will follow this up. One parent talked about a Jolly Phonics APP that she had downloaded which is really good for supporting parents with understanding how to rehearse the phonic sounds at home - the HT will ask Mrs Bateman to share this.
- A general discussion was held around homework. Overwhelmingly Class 2 parents thought the balance was right and could see the links with learning at school. Tasks were consistently given out and parents felt the tasks were very positive and children know what to do and are happy to get on with them.
- The HT 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.
- The HT Talked about the changing Ofsted framework for inspection and the focus on a 'Knowledge Rich' curriculum. The HT discussed the cognitive psychology research that lies behind the change and the focus on understanding how the working memory and long term memory work. The key to children 'knowing more and remembering more' is to enabling knowledge to be stored in children's long term memory so that their working memories have more chance to process the new learning they are being taught each lesson and build on this through a planned sequence of learning. The HT talked about knowledge mats that are being used with the children and parents will see these in their work books. The HT talked about the 'block' approach that is now being used in school so topics are being taught for a couple of weeks at a time e.g. Class 2 are learning about 'Humans and our bodies' and they have been learning about this every afternoon for a couple of weeks. Parents described that they were seeing very positive outcomes from this approach as children were talking more about their learning at home and remembering a lot more key information and facts.
- The HT discussed the weekly MFL, PE and Music lessons that are going on in school on top of the topic work. Parents were highly complementary about the MFL lessons - reporting that their children were loving French with Madame Driver.

#### **4. Extended Schools activities**

- The HT 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 fabulous range of activities. One parent mentioned how amazing it was to see so many children following up their tennis sessions at Skipton Tennis centre out of school.
- Questions were asked about football for the younger ones - The HT will speak to Gerry about a bit more football in his Supersports sessions.
- Another parent asked about a French club - The HT will look into this.

#### **5. Out of School Club**

- Parents were very positive about the provision at the OOSC.

#### **6. LSA**

- The HT and members of the LSA present promoted the forthcoming LSA events - the Movie Night and Christmas fayre. Both are very enjoyable events for the children and the HT talked about there being a good balance of children's activities and stalls for adults to buy gifts from, at the Christmas Fayre.
- The HT said how grateful she was to the LSA for their fundraising and how new monies raised were being focused on improving the school's provision of IPADs and lap tops.
- Email contacts for the LSA were discussed so that parents could make contact to members to offer to help at events. The HT will pass this onto the chair.

#### **7. Health and Safety**

- The HT highlighted to parents the school's Child Protection Policy that can be found on the school's website. Updates to the policy include safeguarding children against 'County Lines' and 'Peer on peer abuse' - details are included. The HT discussed how Lothersdale School staff have an 'it could happen here' approach to all aspects of safeguarding and are very vigilant.
- The HT also talked about the PREVENT duty and the requirement that all schools have a Lockdown Policy. The HT discussed that lockdown could be needed in a range of circumstances not just linked with an act of terrorism e.g. chemical leak, wild animals like deer in the playground etc. She informed parents that staff discuss the policy but the school will not be practising the lockdown policy with the children. The HT stressed that the school had NOT been informed of any threats but just wanted parents to know that there was a policy and procedure in place.

#### **8. Suggestions**

- No suggestions made

The meeting concluded at 10:15am.