

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 16 October 2019
9.00 - 10.10am

Present: Mrs Robinson (HT), Mrs Gill, Mrs Wilson, Mrs Greenwood, Mrs Kernott, Mr Jeffries and Mrs Barrows.

Apologies: Mrs Platt, Mrs Kennedy and Mrs Parsons

1. Home/School relationship

- All parents were very positive about Class 3 and 4s transition processes and felt their children had settled well in their new classes/year groups. A new parent to school spoke very positively about feeling well supported and that settling-in questions had been followed up quickly and positively by Class 3 staff.
- Parents felt that all the staff in Classes 3 and 4 were very approachable and spoke very positively of them.

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. Parents responded that they were very happy with it as it was, said it was a very useful document and didn't request any changes. The HT reported that the school was trying to ensure that each edition didn't use more than 3 pieces of paper per copy.
- Parents commented on how useful the reminder texts are and that other communications are very good.
- 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. The HT followed up a suggestion that had been made in Class 1 and 2s Parent Forum about holding the Curriculum evenings for parents of Year 3 and 5 children in the summer term before they move into their new classrooms, so that parents could be prepared for the transition as well. Parents thought this would be a good idea so the HT 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 his child seems quite competitive about achieving lots of reads and hoped that he was actually wanting to read for pleasure and not just more times than his friends. The HT supported that reading for pleasure is essential and something that the school positively promoted.

- A general discussion was held around homework. Overwhelmingly Class 3 and 4 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 achievable. Parents of children in Year 6 questioned whether their children could have more homework, one feeling that her child was completing tasks very quickly - The HT said she felt that they currently received enough and that if parents wanted to purchase additional workbooks Mrs Fawcett would happily check them to see whether they were suitable and in line with the school's approaches.
- 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 3 are learning about 'The Digestive System' 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 PE and swimming lessons that are going on in school on and parents spoke positively of them.
- The HT informed parents that the cookery curriculum continues this year. Class 3 are having lessons this term and Class 4 in the summer term - the carrot soup so far this term was very tasty!

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 very good range of activities. One parent spoke very highly of how much her child enjoys 'Rebel Girls' and art club. Another spoke positively about his children's enjoyment of Newspaper Club, Running and Football.

5. Out of School Club

- Parents were positive about the provision at the OOSC especially the breakfast club.

6. LSA

- The HT promoted the forthcoming LSA events - the Movie Night and 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.

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. Behaviour

- A discussion was held about children arriving early on the playground and being unsupervised in the morning. Children must be supervised on the playground by their parent/family member until school staff come onto the playground at 8:45am. In addition a concern was raised about children climbing/sitting on the playground wall. The HT said that it was a common sense school rule that children should not be climbing/sitting on the school walls at anytime. Parents must support the high expectations of behaviour at the school and not allow their children to climb/sit on school walls at any time! The HT will talk to the children and remind them of the expectation and also reinforce with school staff that they must ensure this rule is adhered to even if a child's parents are on the playground in the morning or afterschool.

9. Suggestions

- No suggestions made

The meeting concluded at 10:00am.