

Parent voice meeting - 26.02.19

Attendance

Mrs Brooks – 3KS, Mrs Webster – 3LN, Mrs Johnson – 4AH, Mrs Ward – 4KC, Mrs Pink – 5AB, Mrs Fisher 5AH, Mrs Cox – 6RP, Mrs Glennon – 6RS

Reflection on Previous meeting

Staffing - there was no teacher recruitment at present, but the staffing structure was constantly under review and if necessary further recruitment would be undertaken for September.

Mr Hawkins was a member of supply staff brought to support Year 6 as he is very experienced and knowledgeable. A formal introduction would take place via the headteacher's newsletter. Parents recognised that some areas of school process must remain confidential, in particular personnel matters.

Three members of staff are on sick-leave and support is in place to cover teaching, with Mr Maddens in 4KC and Ms Couchman in 4AH.

Financial implications – parents recognised additional financial pressures on the school due to staff on long-term sick leave. It was not anticipated this would impact on other school resources. The end of the financial year was imminent and the 2019/20 budget currently being agreed.

Homework – there would be further discussion with teachers to ensure consistency in homework across classes.

Spelling homework – when looking at different “rules” of spelling children would be given the rules with the homework. The possibility of spellings being put on the website would be investigated. There was positive feedback that Y5 pupils now had examples of workings out with their maths homework to help them.

Revisiting work that children have found challenging is done on a class or individual basis depending on requirement.

Marking – in general it was teachers who marked work, although this might occasionally be undertaken by TAs. For some work such as spellings children might mark each others, but this was double checked by a teacher. Teachers also spoke to the class prior to the marking to ensure peer marking is a supportive process.

Uniform – this had been discussed at a governors' meeting and a uniform policy was being investigated for introduction in September.

Maths - there had not been much parental feedback. Some parents were unaware there had been a change from Mathletics to White Rose.

The class newsletters would outline what was being covered in Maths this term. The headteacher would investigate ways to inform parents about the increased focus on reasoning, including a parent workshop that could be videoed and put on the website.

Concerns were raised that in some classes children were not given enough time to finish their work in class, ie there had been evidence in books of half finished sentences. The headteacher had noticed this and spoken to individual staff.

The curriculum and curriculum progression map was on the school website.

Morning workout was popular with the children, although no assessment had been undertaken to gauge whether it had a positive impact on child learning. There was discussion about doing different activities once the weather improved, to add variety.

Questions from other parents:

Q: How was it ensured that more able children were being stretched and how did the red, orange and green marks show achievement?

A: Teaching and homework was directed at the level of the individual child, and there was setting in Maths and English. There was a focus on independent learning; if children don't always get things right they are encouraged to work problems out for themselves, which encouraged resilience.

The red, orange and green marking system was used to reflect ability – eg two children could receive different coloured marks for the same piece of work depending on expected personal outcomes.

Q: Was there a policy on children drinking in class as some children had reported not being allowed to have a drink when they needed one?

A: There was no policy. Children were advised not to have their water bottles on their desks in case of spillage, but water bottles were in class and children were allowed to drink as required.

Q: Why were children celebrated in the Friday assembly if they had misbehaved that week?

A: This was not always straightforward. If they had earned the award between Mon-Thurs and then misbehaved there would have been consequences for their misbehaviour but should not have the award taken away from them. If parents felt strongly about this then they should discuss it with the headteacher individually.

Celebration assembly – it was recognised that this was a lovely event but was perhaps too formulaic, and Miss Coulbault would give this some thought. Perhaps children could be called for stickers etc in groups of ten, rather than individually. It also helped when the staff taking assembly were enthusiastic.

Focus of next meeting:- English

Date of next meeting: -Tuesday 26th March.

Feedback to be passed to parent representatives by:- Friday 22nd March