

Parent voice meeting - 30.04.19

Attendance

Miss Munns – Deputy Headteacher (DHT), Mrs Brooks – 3KS, Mrs Johnson – 4AH, Mrs Pink – 5AB, Mrs Cox – 6RP, Mrs Glennon – 6RS

J Bryant – note taker

Apologies

Mrs Ward – 4KC, Mrs Fisher 5AH

Computing and Technology

Parents were unsure of what children learnt in Computing and Technology, though they had heard of Scratch. The DHT explained that Scratch was a coding programme which the children used across all years, teaching them to build characters, getting them to move etc. They also used computers for basic skills, word processing, editing, research and creating presentations.

Each class was timetabled for one hour per week in the IT suite and had opportunities to use it at other times. There were pcs in the IT suite and i-pads were available to use in classrooms.

Information on the curriculum, including computing, could be found at <http://ditton-jun.kent.sch.uk/curriculum/>.

Accelerated Reader

There was further discussion about Accelerated Reader. Parents were concerned that although the school had used the system for a number of years it did not appear to be embedded as a teaching resource. Teaching staff did find the system positive but as discussed at the last meeting there was a lack of books. The DHT stated that the purchase of new books had been allocated in the new budget and she hoped new books could be purchased by term 6. Parents believed that children were not doing the quizzes because they did not like the books. **They asked how much had been made at the book fair that would then be used to purchase new books? - £400.00 was raised, which will go towards new books.**

Spellings

There still appeared to be discrepancies in the way spellings were taught and tested across classes and the DHT would review. Parents would welcome the introduction of spelling books across all years as it would be easier to monitor. The DHT had recently been on a course on teaching spellings and stated that the emphasis now was very much on teaching the rules attached to spelling. Children would be taught the rules with examples and then tested on words within that rule rather than just on the learnt words. They had the opportunity to practice in class.

Homework

Homework was sometimes set on “scrappy bits of paper” which were easily lost. The DHT asked what would parents prefer and they said it would help if the homework was actually stuck in the homework books. Perhaps it would be better to have a cardboard folder that the children could then add to with the use of treasury tags. Also, when work was stuck into books

would it be possible to leave a blank page between subjects to allow the children to do the work beside the relevant questions. It might also help if homework could be uploaded to the website.

There appeared to be inconsistency on marking. Sometimes homework was marked with comments and the awarding of a house point, other times it was only ticked.

It was noted that from 2019/20 there would be national testing of **multiplication tables** for all Year 4s.

Questions

Parents had expressed annoyance that the date of the **Y5 performance** had been changed with little notice and no explanation. The school apologises for this.

It was noted that Y4 had introduced setting now there was more stability in the classes. Parents asked when this normally took place and were informed that it was usually early in the academic year, but was always informed by pupil progress meetings, which happen six times a year. Setting was only used for English and maths.

Parents had asked if there would be any more school trips and were advised that teaching staff had been asked to consider trips, especially for Term 6.

Parents asked if there would be opportunities for children to take part in district sports, competing against other schools. The DHT would investigate.

Parents asked if there had been any feedback yet on the bids put in to local companies to improve the wildlife garden. There had been no feedback as yet, the school was still awaiting responses.

There was positive feedback regarding the range of After School Clubs on offer and that this included bringing in outside teachers to teach specialisms. They also welcomed the introduction of a K Sports sports teacher in school at lunch-times. As had been mentioned at a previous meeting, variations to the morning work-out would be welcomed.

Staffing

The Assistant Headteacher had returned to work and was providing cover across classes when necessary. Interviews for a new member of teaching staff were imminent.

Once vacancies had been filled the decision would be taken regarding which classes teachers would take next academic year.

Focus of next meeting:- Science

Date of next meeting: -Tuesday 21st May

Feedback to be passed to parent representatives by:- Friday 17 May