

Parent voice meeting - 21/05/19

Attendance

Miss Coulbault–Headteacher (HT), Mrs Brooks – 3KS, Mrs Johnson – 4JC,
Mrs Ward – 4KC, Mrs Fisher 5AH, Mrs Glennon – 6RS

J Bryant – note taker

Apologies

Mrs Pink – 5AB, Mrs Cox – 6RP

Actions from previous meetings

A staff dress code had been reviewed by governors and staff and would now return to governors for final approval.

The HT confirmed that pupils were allowed to wear black trainers to school if parents wished. While she recognised that school shoes were smart she wanted children to be active, from morning workout to the two playtimes, including lunchtimes when K Sports were in school organising activities. She had done a recent audit and only two or three children were wearing trainers that were not in line with school expectations and they had been spoken to.

Parent Workshops had not been implemented this year but the concept would be reviewed for the next academic year.

Spelling tests were being undertaken on a weekly basis. A parent commented that it was often still just a list of words, not embedded in spelling rules. The HT would discuss this again with staff.

The criteria for awarding the attendance cup would be reviewed for the start of the academic year.

The Pupil Leadership Team had not yet fully formed their ideas for changes to Celebration Assembly but work would continue on revamping the Friday assemblies for next academic year.

£1,000 had been awarded by the local One Stop Shop for use on the wild life garden.

Inspired Through Sport raised £1,700. The school received 45% of the funds and sports equipment had been ordered for the school. Once it had all arrived photos would be taken to share with parents.

The new multiplication tests, to be introduced for Year 4 nationally next year, would be trialled by the current Year 4 after half term. It would be a computer based test and Year 3 were already using the system so they would be used to it prior to the national test.

The school would endeavour to engage with district sports next year if it was possible, as often there were transportation difficulties in getting children to events. The HT would also investigate the district football trials that occur every year so that it was highlighted to parents in the coming year.

Science

Parents had been told that some classes were not undertaking Science Week. The HT explained that there were five topics to be covered in science in a year which meant that one term per academic year one year group did not have a science week; this term it was Y4. The additional week did include science experiments and investigations but also allowed for practice of the production and timed as such on the curriculum.

Parents had asked if children could do more experiments themselves to make science more interesting. The HT explained that this could be difficult to undertake in class so the teacher often demonstrated experiments to the class, but that she would speak to the teachers and science co-ordinator about this.

The school was entering for a science award and new ideas had been included in CPD for teachers to complete prior to Science Week. Parents asked if each Science Week all classes looked at one topic but at difference levels. The HT explained that the national curriculum set the topics for each year to study and the school decided when this would be taught, and that it was not necessarily the same topic across the years.

A parent had asked why English and Maths could not also be taught during Science Week. The HT said that with 12 science lessons to do it was not possible to teach the other topics fully, but that they were incorporated into the science lessons. The school could revert to teaching science one lesson a week but it was not thought to be so effective.

Questions

Parents had queried setting in class, and in particular Y4 where it had recently been introduced. Some children were finding it very upsetting. The HT said that although it had been thought setting would improve learning, having spoken to teachers she was not convinced that it was working fully as yet and that she needed to be sure children were in the correct groupings. It would be reviewed after half term and a decision taken then as to whether it would continue. It was highlighted that teachers regularly swap setting groups, so that it was not always the same teachers with the same groups.

Parents asked if the curriculum would change in the week leading to Sports Day but it was confirmed that it would not change beyond the sports day itself. Children will be practising for Sports Day on their usual PE lessons and will also practice the morning of Sports Day.

Parents asked about the new reading books and the HT explained that she wanted to overhaul the library over the summer holiday, sell some books and make a smaller, more manageable library, and perhaps enhance the space so that it could also be used for interventions. She needed to know what books the school had before ordering new books. Teachers had asked that they have more reading books in classrooms and the HT was looking at a number of options.

Teachers were considering completing Accelerated Reader tests each morning on a rolling programme.

Parents had asked why people were allowed to carry dogs on the playground when there was a sign beside the school gate stipulating no dogs and dogs were not allowed on the infant school premises. There was some discussion around this subject and it was agreed that the ban should be enforced. Parents would be informed via ParentMail.

Parents hoped that there would be more consistency of teaching staff and TAs next year. The HT stated that the school was hopefully moving towards increased stability. Teacher and TA placement was still under discussion and the HT was aware of which classes had experienced the most disruption and this would be taken into consideration. The HT felt very positive about the coming year. The School Improvement Officer had recently visited the school, undertaking observations and could see improvements, with the teachers being more effective and that behaviour for learning had improved.

Focus of next meeting:- Educational Visits, including Residential

Date of next meeting: -Tuesday 25th June

Feedback to be passed to parent representatives by:- Friday 21st June