

## **Parent voice meeting - 25/06/19**

### **Attendance**

Miss Coulbault–Headteacher (HT), Mrs Brooks – 3KS, Mrs Johnson – 4JC,  
Mrs Pink – 5AB, Mr Cox – 6RP

J Bryant – note taker

### **Apologies**

Mrs Ward – 4KC, Mrs Glennon – 6RS

### **Actions from previous meetings**

Work on the wildlife garden would be organised by the new site manager. When the bid was submitted to the One Stop it included details on how the money would be spent, eg on a bird bath and a bench, so these particulars needed to be fulfilled.

Parents had asked again about setting in Year 4 and the HT confirmed that teaching staff had confirmed that it was working well so, following some minor adjustments, it would continue.

It was confirmed that the House shield had been awarded to Bradbourne on Sports Day.

Parents had asked if it would be possible for children to come home in their PE kit after Sports Day but the HT explained that they got changed firstly to ensure that they had all their uniform with them and also, in changing back into their uniform it helped to calm the children down after the exhilaration of sports day so they were not over-excited when they left school.

Parents said that regular spelling tests were not being done in 4KC and Y6. The HT stated that she would investigate.

### **Educational Visits**

Parents asked why there had been very few educational visits this academic year. The HT responded that it had been a difficult year and with changes in teaching staff it had been difficult to plan trips. The children had been taken to the pantomime at Christmas in part to make up for the lack of other trips.

Parents asked if there would be trips next year and it was confirmed that there would be. Suggested trips were on the curriculum map and the aim was to have one trip a seasonal term. It would be tightly monitored and a staff meeting would be given to planning and booking trips. Travelling by coach was expensive so the HT was also considering train travel, as Y3 had done this year when visiting Maidstone Museum. Parents confirmed that they did not mind paying for at least one trip by coach.

The HT was aware that trips to Kent Life and Maidstone Museum were not always special or beneficial as many children visited these venues out of school time. It was planned to visit the pantomime again this year.

Residential trip 2019 – parents confirmed that feedback had been positive after the trip and that the children had had fun. One parent whose child had been unwell on the trip was impressed by how it had been handled.

Some parents were concerned by the distance to Wales, which effectively lost two days in travel. The HT recognised that distance was an issue but noted that the children had arrived by 2pm and immediately went on a hill walk, and also had an evening activity on the first day.

She was looking at alternative venues but wanted children to have a different experience – eg the lake, the mountains and even being in a different country of the UK. It was also £100 cheaper than Liddington, the previous destination. If a change of venue was implemented it would not be until 2021.

Going at a different time of year would be cheaper and research that shown that Y6 children going on a trip at the start of the academic year resulted in good team work among the children for the rest of the year. But to move the trip to the beginning of the year would mean a total reorganisation of the administration, for example payment would be needed a year earlier than at present. One parent said they were happy to pay more if it meant the children were nearer to home and could do more on the trip.

The HT explained that she had moved the trip from Liddington for the following reasons: when she had visited Liddington she just walked onto the site, she was not challenged or asked for any ID; when she walked past the dinner hall there were over 500 children eating or waiting to go into the hall so it was extremely noisy; older children were smoking by the bins. The site was basically a hotel and all the bedroom doors were unlocked, so anyone could have gained entrance. Although our children were fully looked after by our staff there appeared to be little safeguarding in place by Liddington. Acorn Adventures offered a smaller, more bespoke experience for the children.

Parents asked if the HT would explain this at the initial Y5 meeting so there was a clear understanding of why the children no longer attended Liddington and she said that she would do so in future.

## **Questions**

Parents asked when they would find out which teachers were in which class next year. It was explained that 4<sup>th</sup> July was transition day; the children would find out that day which class they would be in next year, and then a ParentMail would be sent to parents later in the day informing them of the new classes.

Parents asked if they would find out the results of the tests the children had recently undertaken. The HT said that feedback would be on the school reports, although it would not be the exact results of the tests.

One parent noted that ability based homework did not appear to be happening and all children were getting the same homework sheets. They also felt that feedback could be improved.

It was agreed that the Parent Voice forum had been positive and it was good to have the two-way communication. The final meeting of the year was on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July and the HT would appreciate ideas for next year, which could then be fed into the School Development Plan.

**Focus of next meeting:- Ideas for next year**

**Date of next meeting: -Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July**

**Feedback to be passed to parent representatives by:- Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July**