

Parent voice meeting - 16/07/19

Attendance

Miss Munns (DHT), Mrs Johnson – 4JC, Mrs Pink – 5AB, Mrs Glennon – 6RS

J Bryant – note taker

Apologies

Miss Coulbault–Headteacher (HT), Mrs Brooks – 3KS, Mrs Cox – 6RP

Actions from previous meetings

Homework had been inconsistent across the years and classes for much of the year, and is under review.

Few parents had come back with ideas for next year, partly due to late circulation of the notes.

Questions

Feedback had been received from parents that some reports appeared to be computer generated. They were simplistic and not very personal. A parent with children in Y4 and Y6 had noted that both reports had looked the same.

Parents would welcome further data to more clearly understand their child's progress. There appeared to be discrepancies between projected progress suggested at the last Parents' evening and what was conveyed in the report. Parents agreed that percentage marks made it easier to understand where their child's progress was within the boundaries of 'Working Towards', 'Expected' and 'Exceeding'.

Parents asked if, as the Kent Test was a week later than usual if the school would be helping the children prepare for the test. The DHT stated that this was not allowed and schools could be penalised if they were found to be coaching the children.

Parents asked where the library would be next year and it was reported that more books would be moved to the classrooms and that the alcove space in the hall would be used to store books. Books were being organised for Accelerated Reader.

Some Y6 parents had commented that several children who had large parts in Matilda had also had large parts in the Y4 productions. It was recognised that these were likely confident performers but it was felt other children should have the same opportunity.

Ideas for Next Year

Homework - more consistent homework across the school, including subject areas, spellings, marking and feedback and that homework be set by ability.

Spelling homework to include rules. Spelling books would be easier to manage and measure children's progress.

If children had loose papers for their spelling tests perhaps they could be fastened together with a treasury tag.

School trips - as teachers were being given specific time to plan next year's trips it would be helpful if parents could be informed early in the academic year of trips to be taken through the course of the year, including costings.

In the past children had enjoyed trips to London to see West End shows but it was recognised that coach travel was expensive and some parents might be anxious about trips to London.

It was suggested the school issue a parent questionnaire covering school trips, asking questions about preferences for train or coach travel, trips to central London and price ranges.

Charity events – it was generally felt there were too many charity events last year. It was suggested that more money is raised for the school, and parents be informed what the money was being spent on. Perhaps one charity could be chosen for the school to support over the course of the year

It was recognised that there were a number of national events, such as MacMillan Coffee Morning, Children in Need and Comic Relief.

It was noted that dressing up days could cause some anxiety for parents and children, though dress down days were not so problematic.

General

Parents asked that the house point system and afternoon tea be reviewed as it currently appeared to be unfair, with some deserving children never being invited and others being invited on more than one occasion. This could have a negative effect on the wellbeing of some children who consistently worked hard but received no reward.

If supply staff was needed for any length of time could it be a consistent member of staff if possible.

The website could be used more, with homework and curriculum information uploaded to class pages each week in a similar format to the Infant School.

Parent Forum

Parent reps agreed that six meetings a year for the Parent Forum would be adequate, one each half term, with dates and focus areas to be agreed at the start of the year, so feedback and questions could be passed to the reps in good time. Suggested date for first meeting was Tuesday 8th October at 2pm, with a focus point of Reading.

It was hoped that the Parent Forum notes would be circulated more swiftly in future.

Hopefully new parent reps would be recruited within the first two weeks of the new term.