

Parent Forum meeting – 19/11/19

Attendance

Mr Knell (DHT), Ms Forrest and Mrs Robinson – 3JC,
Mrs Johnson – 5BH and Mrs Pink – 6AB.

Apologies

Miss Coulbault (HT), Mrs Hussey – 3LN, Mrs Brooks – 4KS

J Bryant – note taker

There were a number of vacant places on Parent Forum and it was suggested that Parentmails be sent to each class to encourage parents to join the forum.

Actions from previous meetings

Reading - a reading section page for the website has now been published on the school website under 'Curriculum'.

There was general agreement that children were coming home with age appropriate books. Parents stated that it would be useful if bandings could be noted in the children's record books, so that parents would know when children had been moved up a band following testing. It would also be useful to have more information about "reads", ie how many should be achieved each week.

The Reading Leader had huge enthusiasm for the subject and was moving it forward. In addition a number of staff were receiving CPD Phonics training.

Investment in new books was on-going. There was a book fair week commencing 2nd December.

Year 6 - it had been noted that there were fewer children being 'exited' in Year 6. This was a combination of clarification regarding behaviour and children stepping up and adjusting to the behaviour for learning expectations.

Parents' Evening – the parents had received positive feedback regarding the new signing-up booking system.

Focus: Maths

The school used the White Rose scheme, a resource for the teaching and learning of Maths. This covered the full curriculum while leaving room to manoeuvre between the blocks of learning; the national curriculum objectives were contained within those blocks. It concentrated on fluency, problem solving and reasoning.

The DHT was now running extra Maths groups during the school day, where gaps had been accurately assessed. The group sizes varied and was currently about 6/7 children per group. There were also SATs booster groups running.

It was queried why one upper set for Maths was left without a TA when the class split for setting. The DHT explained that the TAs went where they were most required.

AOB:

Questions

Could parents be given more notice if their help was needed on school trips?

While many parents were happy to help on trips at least a couple of weeks notice was needed. It was suggested that a call for help be included in the original announcement letter. **The DHT said that he would take this back to SLT for further discussion.**

Parents noted that there had been no communication regarding children bringing in £1 on Word Day?

It had been hoped (communicated by parent letter) that in the three weeks leading up to Word Day small donations would be made in an effort to raise £800 for English resources, therefore children were not expected to bring £1 on the day. We fully take on board that this event was not promoted well enough.

Could Science be taught every week rather than one week a term?

The DHT noted that research had shown retention of the subject was improved when taught in blocks of learning, so there were no plans to change the current teaching method at present. In addition, the Science lead had recently undertaken CPD training and had numerous ideas to make Science Week more stimulating across the year groups.

Homework – in some classes there appeared to be a lack of enthusiasm in marking. While some classes awarded house points for good homework other classes never did. There was no consistency of marking across the years either. The DHT noted that while he was conscious of teacher workloads, that positive feedback and reinforcement could be beneficial. **He would raise this at the weekly staff meeting.**

A parent had noted that one homework worksheet on colons had been American, using American words and spellings, which had been confusing. **The DHT would raise this at the weekly staff meeting.**

Year 3 parents noted that they had not received any communication about costumes for the Lower School Christmas production.

It transpired that letters were due to be distributed on the afternoon of the Parent Forum meeting and the letters came home with the children accordingly.

Year 3 pupil trays – parents had found that letters, worksheets etc had not been coming home regularly because children had been forgetting to take them from their trays and put them in their bags. Parents asked if the children could regularly be reminded to do this.

Parents asked if there could be clear communication on dates for upcoming Christmas events, such as Christmas parties and discos.

Dates of next meetings:

21 January – Science/Ofsted
24 March
12 May
16 June