

## Minutes of Parent forum meeting 22.1.19 2pm

Present: Mrs Eggleton, Miss Ward, Mrs Brown, Mrs Whittaker, Mrs Gurr and Mrs Jennings taking minutes.

Apologies from Mrs Cato

Mrs Gurr welcomed everyone.

The dates for the meetings till the end of the school year were repeated: 4/3/19, 21/5/19, 2/7/19 and MG will send reminders a week before.

### Discussion of minutes from previous meeting:

ERIC letter went out. Parents said there had been no feedback particularly but that it did clarify things.

Children are still sometimes not receiving stickers or prizes up to 4 weeks in year 1. Parents asked if teachers could be reminded or if it is possible for the children to get the stickers themselves.

Messages in children's reading records are not being seen and replied too. Eg indication/response to a book being too easy or when the assessments will take place.

### Issues raised:

1. A parent asked if there is a mention or celebration of when a child goes up a level, in class.
2. M G explained that there is a reward and praise but not a whole class celebration as some children (and parents) can get really hung up on trying to get through the colours without understanding that it is comprehension and other skills that sometimes mean they are on a colour band longer.
3. A parent asked for a little guidance as to how much she should be doing with her child now he has moved up a book colour. MG recommended speaking directly to the teacher if she was really concerned, but also to read as much or as little as the child can cope with, and be led by him if it is demanding. Another parent suggested reading to the child or taking turns to do a page each.
4. A parent asked if there were headteacher certificates given out. MG explained that the star of the week used to be from Headteacher but as the teachers decided on them that they became from them. She said that children were often sent to her for very good work or behaviour and they would get a head teacher's sticker. Parents felt that the effect it has on children is so very strong and motivating and very special, that they suggested a head teacher's certificate for exceptional behaviour, or work to perhaps be done once a half term. As well as continuing with normal stickers. MG said she would consider this and agrees in principal as it is so good for the children, but is mindful that some parents are likely to then question why their child hasn't got one! We all agreed the more stickers and reward the better.

5. A parent asked about us doing a mile a day to get the children active every day. MG explained that we are already considering it. At the moment the children do 5 a day which means they are involved with 5 to 10 minutes of activity every day, usually after assembly, where they are taking part in activities that raise their heart rate, improve balance or co-ordination. Sometimes this is done following a routine on a screen to music, sometimes outside on the playground or in the hall. Additionally, we try to include other things such as maths rote learning or the alphabet whilst doing the activity. (eg star jumps while counting in 5's) As well as 5 a day, the children do 2 or 3 sessions of PE a week, including yoga, and have an outside learning time. Occasionally if teachers feel children need it they will down tools and have a jump about to get going again. SEN children often have timetabled sensory breaks. MG explained that we encourage active learning and the children are given practical lessons whenever possible. An example was given of the children using the playground markings for doing their maths or their phonics. The parents at the forum were impressed with all of this going on and felt not many parents are aware of that.
6. Toilets: Parents asked if it could be made clearer to children that they can go to the toilet if needed as one or two had had an accident because they thought they could not go. MG reassured the parent that children are actively encouraged to go at playtimes, after play, lunchtimes or before lessons start. They are then able to go when they want and simply need to let someone know. MG suggest that a teacher may say 'could you wait just a moment?' maybe the child then does not want to ask again and the teacher becomes distracted. MG said she would ask staff to remind children that they can go and it is ok to ask again.
7. MG asked how familiar the parents are with the attendance policy and procedures of leave of absence. The parents gave some indication of understanding the process of applying for leave of absence but not being entirely sure of all parts of the process or understanding who is responsible for decision making around authorisation and fines. MG explained the process is a legal duty by which the school is bound. MG said she was planning to clarify this in a letter and the forum parents felt it was a good idea.
8. Reception PE kit: A parent asked if children are helped during changing to ensure they have the right kit as many of the children are coming home with the wrong kit and items not being returned. MG said that the children are helped and supervised but also encouraged to be independent. When 2 adults are with 24 children getting dressed and sorted out, things can go into the wrong bags. MG said she would let the teachers know and would put it in a parent mail to Reception parents.
9. Two parents asked if Mrs Harris and midday staff could be thanked for their support over recent issues with their children and diet needs.

Mrs Gurr thanked everyone for their time and input.

The meeting closed at 2.55pm

