



Parent Forum 11th February 2021
HATFIELD PEVEREL INFANT SCHOOL

Attendees:

Mrs Gurr (Headteacher)
Mrs Whittaker (Year 2)
Mrs Harman (Year 2)
Mrs Turley (Year 2)
Mrs Craig (Year 1)
Mrs Winwood (Year 1)
Mrs Eggleton (Year 1)
Mrs Sculfor (Reception)
Mrs Jennings (SBM) taking minutes.

Introduction

Mrs Gurr began by welcoming everyone to the group and said how wonderful it was to be meeting again, albeit remotely. All members of the group introduced themselves to each other.

Mrs Gurr referred to the terms of reference for the group and explained this further. She explained that it was a public meeting by representation and should not contain any confidential information as the minutes will be published on the school's website and to parents.

Mrs Gurr said that as it was a Parent forum it was not for her to set an agenda rather it would come directly from the parents for the main part. Additionally she would garner parent's opinions on a range of aspects of school life.

Mrs Gurr stressed that the parent forum is an opportunity for the school to hear the voices of the parents and children and for the school to communicate on those questions or issues. It should be a solution-focused group with the intention of improving the experience for all stakeholders.

Mrs Gurr invited the representatives from each year group to feedback from parents.

Reception

General Feedback

General feedback from Reception parents is very positive. Parents are happy with how things are going that the teachers appreciate that they are new parents and so do not know what to expect and support them through this accordingly.

They are impressed with the home learning and feedback they receive and the support from the staff.

Some parents have been struggling with printing off the resources, however the school have been supportive in providing them with packs of work.

Zoom Sessions

'Inspiring Learners for Life'



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Zoom sessions, although a little chaotic to begin with, have now settled down and all seem to be enjoying them and benefitting from them.

Parents particularly like the new story time session.

Home Learning

Some parents have mentioned that their children are finding the White Rose Maths links and videos not as engaging as the teacher sessions. Mrs Gurr informed the group that all year groups will be having a weekly maths zoom session, beginning after half term so that there will be a combination of White Rose Maths videos and teacher zoom sessions.

Mrs Sculfor mentioned that the school may need to manage the expectations of some parents as they are confused as to why the class LSA is responding to work on Tapestry and not the class teacher. Mrs Gurr said that she was pleased that this had been brought up and referred to a comment made in the parent questionnaire regarding this. She stressed that all of the LSAs are very experienced and valued members of the team. The teachers are sometimes in class with Key worker children, accessing Zoom, making videos or welfare calls or attending meetings, so it is necessary and desirable for the LSAs to provide the feedback to the children at home sometimes. Mrs Gurr said she would appreciate parents encouraging the children to enjoy feedback from all staff.

Some reception parents had mentioned that they would like the week's work in advance and this is something that will be taken back to the teachers. Mrs Gurr did mention that sometimes it is difficult to have all of the work as it may need to be altered to extend children during the week.

Year 1

General Feedback

Mrs Winwood informed the group that the Year 1 parents were very impressed with the home learning and zoom calls and although some would like more, they do understand why this may not be possible. The structure of the work is good, and they have been really pleased with the teacher involvement and feedback. The children love the assemblies also.

Zoom Sessions

Mrs Gurr addressed the query about more zooms, informing the group that this has been a topic of discussion amongst staff, however if we were to increase the zooms, this would mean reducing the videos which could put more pressure on working parents.

From the parent survey, **89%** of parents were happy with the zoom/video recording balance and so this will continue. Mrs Gurr informed the group that schools are not under any obligation to facilitate any zoom lessons or videos at all but feels we have struck a good balance and compromise that suits parents and is beneficial for the children. The majority of parents agreed that the zooms were a good length of time.

Home Learning

It was mentioned by Mrs Winwood that some parents are struggling with the practical activities set by teachers; for example, scavenger hunts or finding objects in the house for a set activity. For working parents who are on calls, they cannot help their child to do this and so have found this to be difficult. Mrs Gurr said that she felt it was important



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for the children to partake in these practical activities to have a break from the structured or screen learning but understood how this could be tricky for some, and would feed this back to teachers.

Mrs Gurr explained that although the Year 1 work is being sent on a Monday for the whole week, this has not always been possible as the teachers have been tweaking this everyday depending on how the children are coping. Now that we have more of an idea of their needs, we can plan a week in advance.

One parent asked for teachers not to ask the children 'how much work have you done this morning' as sometimes they may not have done any and then can feel guilty about this. Mrs Gurr said that she was sure this would not have been the teacher 'checking up' on them and instead was simply part of the conversation, but she will mention this to teachers.

Mrs Winwood said that Tapestry can sometimes put things in the wrong order and so it is not always possible or easy to find the same zoom link. Mrs Craig said that it would be good if all of the zooms were static throughout the week. ie same group same time. Mrs Gurr said she would check this was not already the case.

Mrs Eggleton said that parents are very happy with the marking of work and that impressively quick response from staff; the children enjoy seeing the feedback.

Key Worker Contact

Mrs Eggleton asked if it was possible for when key worker parents need to be contacted whilst their children are in school, to be sent a text message or email asking them to call the school instead of a phone call as they are usually on zooms and cannot answer. Mrs Gurr said that there is capacity to send texts via parent mail in emergencies and will look into this.

Mrs Winwood mentioned that it would be good to have a timetable of work for the day for parents to work around and that this is what the juniors had done. Mrs Gurr acknowledged this and said that it is a good idea, although she did not want to put any more pressure on parents to feel they have to do everything, and stressed the importance of flexibility of the work. This is something that she will take back and discuss with staff.

Mrs Gurr mentioned this was also a comment from the parent questionnaire as well as advice on how long to spend on a task even if it is not completed.

Year 2

General Feedback

Mrs Whittaker said that there had been positive feedback from the Year 2 parents regarding how much the children have been enjoying the zoom calls with Mrs Troughton and that she always puts a smile on their faces. They commented on how well she has stepped in for Mrs Fairbairn and that it was good for them to get to know her.

Home Learning

Mrs Harman said that the standard of the home learning was excellent and that it was well planned and executed. There have been positive comments regarding the feedback on Tapestry and how the teachers praise the children and their work and encourage them to take the next steps and go further. Mrs Gurr said this was good to hear as the feedback and next steps was discussed in staff meeting as being very important.



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Mrs Gurr informed the group that some parents have contacted school saying that they are really struggling with the home learning and stressed the importance of not pushing this with the children and some days just to do the bare minimum as a zoom call or reading. She does not want it to become a battle between the children and their parents and suggested sites such as BBC lessons as a good alternative if the child is really struggling to engage. Mrs Gurr asked the members of the group to please take this back to parents and encourage them to contact the school if they need support.

Mrs Whittaker raised her concern that her child is missing the child interaction and that it would be nice for the children to be able to have a 'social zoom' so that they can have time to talk with each other. Mrs Gurr was supportive of this idea, however, did not know how this would work logistically without taking time away from teaching. She confirmed that with the duties teachers have already in terms of preparation of lessons, resources, 3 levels of zoom calls, differentiated videos, welfare calls, team meetings and responding on Tapestry that this would not be possible as a separate new meeting for the school to facilitate without something else being lost. However, she agreed this is a lovely idea and we should continue to work out a way to achieve it. Mrs Gurr asked whether it could be something that the ISA or Parent Forum could support with.

It was also suggested that the last 5 minutes of the zoom sessions could be for the children to speak to each other.

Mrs Winwood volunteered to run a Friday after school zoom such as a show and tell and Mrs Turley said that she would be happy to facilitate a social zoom. Mrs Gurr suggested that it would perhaps be nice for the child who has an ERIC to lead the zoom on that week. Mrs Gurr will give it some thought along with the teachers and feedback to parents.

Some parents commended Mrs Gurr on her assemblies. Some even saying that the PE one is 'hilarious'. Mrs Gurr is pleased that the children are enjoying and benefitting, and that she is a source of entertainment for the parents, she added she needs a lie down after the PE ones!

Transition

A few parents were concerned about the transition from Year 2 into Year 3 and wondered how this would look in the current situation and if the children will be 'ready' given the amount of time that they had missed at school. Mrs Gurr fully appreciates the concern that the year 2 parent have about this and reassured the group that we will be doing all that we can to support the children through this. Whether they are 'ready' educationally will very much depend on when the children will be back in school, but that we would do everything to make it a good transition and preparation.

Mrs Gurr informed the group that during the Autumn term, nearly all of the children made their expected progress over the short time in school and that this was a good sign. She also told the group that the juniors will not expect for them to be completely 'ready' and have achieved every objective or target from Year 2. The year 2 teachers will also be working very closely with the year 3 teachers to ensure a smooth transition. Depending on social distancing, the children will also have a chance to meet their new teacher face to face or on Zoom.

Mrs Eggleton added a comment on how good the transition was last year (2020) as this had occurred during the first lockdown. She mentioned about the multiple videos and zoom sessions that the children had had with their new teachers, how there was an opportunity for parents to talk to the teachers, and how good it was despite lockdown. Mr Gurr also mentioned the Year 3 teachers, Headteacher and deputy were invited for the leaver's picnic. Mrs Gurr reassured everyone that despite this situation, this will be a positive and reassuring experience for the children.

Returning to school



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Mrs Turley said that parents were keen to know when the children will be able to return to school, but that they completely understand that it is not in the hands of the school to decide this. Mrs Gurr said that she and the staff could not wait to have all of the children back in and that she hopes that it would be for all year groups. But at this moment in time, we do not know any more than the parents do. It very much depends on the government announcement scheduled for the 22nd of February.

Parent's questionnaire issues discussed

Possible timetable for parents for the home learning (mentioned above)

The increased rate of parents happy with home learning (balance) as 89% rather than 76% in November.

The overwhelming positive and appreciative comments from parents.

That of the 12 parents that were not happy with the balance of Zoom and video, 7 parents asked for more Zoom and 5 asked for more videos so it was a balancing act to reach the best compromise for all.

School providing another Zoom session just for social development which is a lovely idea (mentioned above) and how to facilitate this.

The increased number of parents struggling with getting children to engage.

Expectations from parents that teachers will be the ones who will respond every time. -'Well done' and it was from a classroom assistant'- Please encourage your child to see any feedback as positive and understand how valued and experienced our LSAs are, just how much they are part of the teaching and learning experience. Staff have been asked to ensure there is a next step to encourage further learning as well as praise for what they have done.

Mrs Gurr thanked everyone for attending and for their contributions to the group. All agreed that whilst we are unable to physically meet, Thursday evenings are a good time for all.

Meeting finished at 8.40pm.

The next meeting date TBC

Minutes taken by Mrs Jennings, School Business Manager