

Parent Forum minutes 6th November 2019

Mrs Gurr welcomed everyone to the parent forum. Everyone introduced themselves. We have representatives from all year groups.

Friday afternoon reading: Year 2- Mrs B raised a question about whether reading on a Friday afternoon could be changed to activities the children could do. Mrs Gurr said this was a lovely idea but not practical because of setting up and putting away time which takes staff away from learning time for the children. Mrs Gurr suggested we could make a change to the reading by maybe having 4 areas where the children could go to listen to a story read by an adult. This would have to be a parent. After this they could then share a book with their parents. All agreed this was a lovely idea and we would try it. Mrs Gurr will send a message explaining this to parents and start in 2 weeks.

Mrs H mentioned it was like **mystery reader** in Reception and they love that. Asked if this could happen in year 1. Mrs Gurr will look into this.

Parents have also turned up for Friday read and the child does not want to go because it is golden time. Asked if possible to **change the time or golden time**. Mrs Gurr will look into this.

Year 2 questions: Mrs E said parents were really pleased with **the fantastic teaching** going on in Year 2 and they said 'Thankyou'.

Question raised as to why **the outdoor area** had not been used each week. Mrs Gurr said it was weather related. Discussion then was around waterproof suits for year 1 and 2. These are impractical as nowhere to dry them. However, wellies could be brought into school by all children and we need to ask parents to make sure children have appropriate coats for working outside.

Mrs E asked for information about **water drinking** in school as many children go home with full bottles. She asked if it is only packed lunch people who have their water bottle. Mrs Gurr explained that the children having dinner do not take their water bottle to lunch, instead we have junior children and some adults walking around filling cups for the children to drink as they eat. Packed lunch children tend to have a drink in their packed lunch. After playtime and lunchtime, the children are always encouraged to have a drink in their classrooms before starting learning again. After play this is often done with snack. Parents would just ask for **children to be encouraged to drink more**. Miss W suggested making it a competition and awarding a sticker or a dojo to the children. All agreed this was a good idea. Mrs Gurr to feed this back to staff.

Year1: A suggestion was made for Year 1 next September that there is an explanation on **how to do the spellings with the children as they did not know. Also, explanation of the homework challenge** being over the half term, as some parents thought it was for the week and their child did it all! The parents asked if it was possible to have a homework book so they can keep a record for themselves. Mrs Gurr said she would consider this but it is nice for it to go up on the wall. A discussion then followed about how well Tapestry in Reception means that this is not a problem at all as the parent uploads it and still has the record of it and some response. 2 parents from Reception said they loved Tapestry and that if they didn't have it they probably would know nothing about school. Mrs Gurr said that as a school we are looking into seeing if it would work in Year 1 or Year 2.

Reception: Ms W mentioned that dates do not match from website. Mrs Gurr said the vast majority do, we sometimes have to change dates and we do sometimes make mistakes. (There are 49 dates just in this term, and they get added to as we book things for the children). Parents in Reception were upset as they had organised child care and the workshop date for Reception was changed and parents did not have enough notice. This was unfortunate and one that needed changing at short notice. (It coincided with Parent mail being down, mentioned by Mrs Harris after the meeting). Mrs E pointed out that the **workshops were excellent**, and all agreed that they are very worth attending.

Reception: parents feel there was a lot of confusion around **clubs**. Dates were incorrect and not clear when starting. Mrs Gurr said that is down to external providers not the school. Also, they felt aggrieved that they signed up for a club and then another one came out which they may have preferred. Mrs Craig suggested having a list in the term before, of the clubs that will be advertising. Mrs Gurr said school can try to do this if we know the clubs and all agreed a good idea.

Reception: Parent mail. Ms W asked if all letters that are sent out in bags can also go out as Parent mail. Mrs Gurr said this can be done, but it is more work for the office and Mrs Gurr. There is so much that goes out there is a danger people will stop reading them. We can try this.

A discussion then ensued amongst the group that **parents need to be more pro-active about information and communication** as so much is sent out well in advance. Parent mail is well utilised, but communication is also in the form of letters, explanation of events and whether parents or children are invited, the whole school year leaflet, the things we have done, newsletters, curriculum letters and information, website, diary dates on the bottom of all leaflets, ISA events. It was felt amongst the group that many of these things are communicated and addressed very well and it is **the responsibility of the parents to look for/keep the communications sent out**. Mrs Gurr agreed wholeheartedly, but also acknowledged that new parents will come each year so we will continue to address this.

Reception: It was communicated that the **quality of uniform** provided by Personalise was not as good as school trends. This cannot be addressed by the school as School trends no longer exists.

Year 1: Raised the point that the **door to Diamond class** is often not open promptly. Mrs Gurr will let staff know.

Question asking if we still need **parents to read** can they come in randomly or at set times. Mrs Gurr said that committed time is always better so staff can plan for it. But if parents want to help they are always welcome. It will not be in the class where their child is and preferably not the same year group.

A parent mentioned how much the children enjoyed the Tag Rugby festival.

Question about the **Tag Rugby and sports events in general:** how the children are chosen.

Mrs Gurr explained that there is a cluster group of schools of which we are part of who pay into a sports provider. They organise and hold sports events for all of the schools to either compete against each other or to take part in events that are teaching the children skills and then allowing them to play each other. The Tag Rugby festival was the latter. Some of the events are competitive and some not. In addition, they provide one event called 'Sport for All' which is an inclusive session for children less able or willing to take part in competitive sport. Children are chosen randomly for learning/festival sessions and for the competitive sessions they are chosen based on performance in either trials or PE sessions. We do try to choose a range of children over the year.

Mrs Gurr told the parents that the results from the **questionnaire in July** were excellent and many positive and kind comments had been made about our school. Mrs Gurr explained that we will discuss one or two of the comments made in 'areas for development' next time. She asked parents about one or two comments that were not clear and the forum agreed that one was possibly referring to Governors, one was an issue that forum had already discussed and had been addressed and one was difficult to understand without an example. The last comment about **clubs being varied and after school** was discussed and the forum agreed that teachers are doing enough clubs at lunch time for variety. It was suggested that maybe parents would like to organise and run a creative club or computer club after school. Mrs Gurr said she would be happy to discuss it with any parent.

Mrs Gurr thanked everyone for their time and it was agreed meetings will take place on a Wednesday.

