

Present: Mrs Gurr, Mrs Wilkinson, Mrs Eggleton, Mrs Cato, Mrs Winwood, Mrs Harman, Mrs Watters, Mrs Whittaker, Mrs Brown, Ms Ward. Mrs Jennings (taking minutes)

Apologies from Mrs Lapwood and Mrs Dervish

Introduction

Mrs Gurr welcomed everyone to the group and thanked them for agreeing to be on the parent forum. She explained that as it is the first meeting we need to agree parameters and issues around ensuring the group is run for the benefit of all and that information is distributed efficiently and unambiguously.

A list of representatives was distributed.

Mrs Gurr asked that if representatives were not able to make the date and knew beforehand that they would try to ask another parent to step in and in any case let the office know.

Lastly Mrs Gurr explained that the agenda should come from the parents, but she will also be asking their opinions on a range of subjects.

Discussion points:

What the parent forum is:

Everyone agreed that the forum is a positive and open arena to improve the outcomes for all of our children and the engagement between parents and the school.

Who is involved:

Mrs Gurr explained the meetings will be half termly and involve the representatives, a governor and herself and that a member of the office staff will take minutes.

How we will get the information to parents:

It was agreed that at the end of every meeting a parent mail will go out with bullet points of what has been discussed and a date given when parents can access the minutes with the detail of the discussions. Mrs Gurr or Mrs Jennings will do this. Representatives will direct parents to this on the website.

How parents can effectively input to the meetings:

It was agreed that parents can approach representatives individually or leave messages for them by handing them directly to a member of staff to put into the zip wallet. It would be better if these had a name on them. The representative can then collect them and if unsure of the request or information can contact the parent for clarification. This way the responsibility for putting forward the views of the class are with the whole of the class and the spokesperson is the representative.

Reception feedback:

The children have all settled really well and the parents are finding their feet. They are very happy with everything.

Year 1: Reading records:

It was agreed that Mrs Gurr would check with staff about consistency/frequency of stickers and rewards being put into or updated in children's reading records. [Note; This has already been done at yesterday's staff meeting: All staff, as mentioned at the forum meeting, update the children's reading records once a week in terms of stickers and prizes. Usually when they do Guided reading or individual reading with the teacher.](#)

Year 1: How parents can help their child more at home and how school can accommodate this:

A discussion took place but there is more to talk about around this whole topic, which we will do next time. Parents would like to be able to reinforce work more at home and have information about what their child is doing in class so that they can support more. They learnt so much about what the children do from the workshops that they feel they can now support more effectively. Some other suggestions had been written down for further discussion and left with Mrs Gurr.

Year 2: Parents in Year 2 would like even more individualised information so they know exactly where their child is so they can support them. Mrs Gurr reminded the forum that information is put up on the outside boards or windows about the work for the week, challenges are set for homework around the topic, and that the curriculum letters go out at the beginning of each topic telling parents what the children will be focusing on in their learning. It was felt that sending worksheets home individualised would be a very onerous and additional task to the work already being done in class. The curriculum covers such a massive range of steps and statements. This discussion will be continued.

Workshops: Feedback from all year groups was that the workshops were so useful as well as enjoyable and gave a real insight, and that parents are looking forward to more. There will be individual class workshops or staggered days so parents can look after each other's toddlers. Mrs Gurr felt that an evening workshop would not be viable.

Year 1: Yearly diary and clubs

School was thanked for producing the yearly diary dates and it is fantastic to have! School was also praised for the improved amount of clubs on offer for the children. (Note: This term we have introduced more before and after school clubs than last year: fencing, badminton, Spanish, dance to start soon, keep fit to start soon).

Year 1 other comments: Staff were complimented on their approachability and the parents are very happy with the school and really pleased that the forum has been set up.

Length of the meetings: It was agreed that the forum meetings may need to be longer and we would start at 2.00 or 2.15pm.

Year 1 and Year 2 parents left their written input so that they can be addressed at the next meeting.

Although not discussed due to time constraint the written lists included:

What is working really well:

The workshops exceeding parent's expectations. (See above re changes)

Parents love coming into school and welcome all opportunities.

Lots of positive feedback from parents and children about the garden and the playground development.

Parents enjoyed the planetarium and taking part, as well as general visits from outside organisations.

How approachable teachers are, that they are welcoming and always happy to answer questions, and never make you feel like you are pestering them.

Hard work from the ISA is appreciated and events are well organised.

Leadership changes show obvious attempts to include parents more, eg workshops, show and share, each year group having own show/concerts, lots of parents feeding back shows they feel confident and this is a positive step forward.

Parent forum opportunity is a very positive step forward

Parents like to see Mrs Gurr outside in the morning and afternoons and she is approachable, friendly and knows all the children's names!

Areas to discuss in upcoming meetings:

District sports and sports day
Online options for reporting progress
Homework /Guidance for using online websites
Bookbags- inconsistent messages and content/ quality
Newsletter/ parent mail/ ambiguity
Parental help in class
Transition to year 1
Access to the junior's field
ERIC
Teams

Mrs Gurr thanked all the parents for their input and time and said she was pleased we have our parent's forum and that she thinks it will make a big difference.

The next meeting will be on **Tuesday 13th November at 2.00pm**

The meeting ended at 3.05pm