

Parent Voice
Wednesday 30th November 2016
3B classroom

1. Welcome and introductions

2. Minutes of the last meeting and action points

- **Lunch menu**

A non-graphic version had been added to the school website shortly after the last meeting in ***School Info > School Meals > Barnes Farm Infant & Junior Menu Autumn 2016 Black & White version***

- **Forest Schools**

Mr McIntosh had not yet been able to talk about this with Mrs Welch but would do so.

- **Head lice**

A link to the NHS webpages regarding the detection and treatment of head lice had been added to our school website (***School Info > Health and welfare***). A downloadable and printable guide had also been added.

- **Flu immunisation**

A letter to inform parents and invite them to sign up for their child was sent out later that week, confirming the date as Monday 5th December.

- **Photos**

Feedback given in the meeting was that the photos were not good. It did not seem like much attention had been paid to the appearance of some of the children before the photos were taken and they looked scruffy. Some parents did not like the children standing as they didn't know how best to pose in that position. Some were told to face a certain direction whatever the circumstances – one child had a graze on the side of her face she had to show to the camera and this was not taken into account. Mr McIntosh would pass on these comments to the school business manager who arranges the photos each year.

3. Homework letter for Year 3

One of the Year 3 parents present commented that the recent letter was very welcome and made things clear. It was suggested this was sent out to new Year 3 parents as part of the transition information in the summer term before they join the school.

4. Emailing of letters, etc.

This is still well-received by parents but one parent commented that they were starting to experience problems in no longer receiving attachments direct to their Eschools app. Mr McIntosh would check with the company and find out what could be done and if this was more widespread than one example.

5. Use of assembly time/interventions

A question was raised about the possibility of teachers running additional interventions in assembly time. Mr McIntosh explained that teachers were expected in assembly on Mondays and Thursdays and the Friday assembly was set aside as directed time with their LSAs in order to prepare for the week ahead. Depending on their year group, one of Tuesday or Wednesday was a singing assembly and the other was a classroom assembly. Interventions occur at many times during the day across the school and if a child is identified as needing or benefiting from a particular group or individual session, this would take place where possible according to the human resources we have available to us. Class teachers know their pupils well and what they need to do to make progress and this is the key factor in their planning and delivery of teaching, including feedback and redirection of learning within the lesson. Parents who have particular concerns about their child should make an individual appointment with their class teacher.

6. End of the day release

A parent commented that some classes – including the class of their own child – were sometimes or often quite late in being dismissed at the end of the day and this was causing problems for parents who need to pick up children in other classes or at the Infant School, or who need to get to another appointment or activity straight after school. Mr McIntosh would ask all teachers to be as prompt as possible at the end of the day.

7. Year 6 playtime arrangements this week

A question was raised about the likely duration of this week's playtime arrangements for Year 6 that had been put in place following a serious incident involving Year 6 boys last Friday. Mr McIntosh explained that the school leadership team had thought carefully about the appropriate initial response to the incident and, aside from actions for particular individuals, the arrangements were judged as timely and suitable. They were not supposed to be seen as a punishment on all of Year 6 but rather a means of managing playtimes in a more controlled and supervised manner, particularly while investigations were continuing regarding the extent of certain pupils' involvement in the incident in question. A parent of a Year 6 child commented that the arrangements were being seen as a punishment, regardless of how the school tried to present them. Mr McIntosh assured parents that the situation would be reviewed at the end of the week and if required, repeated again until the school's leadership believed it was no longer necessary. However, the aim was to return to a more integrated model; this was important not only for Year 6 but also for all the other children in the school who had similarly been affected by the Year 6 arrangements this week.

8. Stickers in charts

A parent commented that stickers did not seem to be given out as frequently in higher year groups as in Year 3 and that this was a real incentive for many children to make effort or to do their best, right up to Year 6. Some children had also told their parents that they appeared to be given out mostly to pupils who do additional interventions or work more closely with adults on a regular basis. A parent praised the system used in 3RS last year whereby a sticker was given if a child had read at least four times to their

parent/other adult and this had been signed by a parent in their learning passport (now 'pupil passport'). This appeared to help encourage some children to want to read more. Mr McIntosh would raise this subject with teachers at the next staff meeting.

9. Ofsted update

A question about the current status of the Ofsted timeline was raised. Mr McIntosh explained that under the current system, schools rated as 'Requires Improvement' were supposed to be re-inspected by Ofsted within two years of the previous inspection report; however, the school had heard that Ofsted's workload was impinging on that framework and it could be a longer timeframe for us. This is not something that is within the school's power to slow down or speed up – Ofsted will come to us within their own schedule and we will receive only one day's notice, as is common practice. A parent asked where the school would evaluate itself currently in terms of Ofsted grades. Mr McIntosh responded that the evidence of the work carried out in the last 19 months pointed to significant improvements, particularly in areas that were seen as weaknesses by the Ofsted inspection team. Recent visits by local authority individuals and teams confirmed this and on the basis of these and our own evaluations, we would currently judge ourselves as 'Good'. The aim, obviously, is always to be 'Outstanding' and we would never just consciously settle for less than that. A parent commented that additional/improved communication from the school on this matter would be very much appreciated by parents and increase their confidence in the school, perhaps on a quarterly basis. Mr McIntosh reminded parents that the governors had sent out a newsletter regarding school improvement progress at the end of the last term and he expected this would be done again this term.

10. Date and time of next meeting

Monday 19th December at 9am (tea/coffee from 8.45am) in the Barn.