

Minutes of the Parent Voice meeting - Tuesday May 20th 2014

Mr McIntosh (Deputy Head teacher) introduced himself and Mrs Enever (Business Manager) to the group and outlined the purpose of the meeting.

Homework

In the last parent survey most parents agreed with the amount of homework which was sent home but 9% disagreed. Some of the group said they felt that homework could sometimes be too easy or inconsistent. Mathletics was viewed as a useful resource although it was noted that pupils could go back over the same questions until they get a correct answer.

Mr McIntosh said he would look at SAM learning to see if those children who needed additional homework could go on to use it.

Some parents also said they were not sure if the work completed was correct because it was sometimes not returned so they did not get any feedback.

Parents asked if the Big Write could be done on a Monday so children would have the weekend to complete the work. Mr McIntosh explained that the Big Write usually occurred on a Friday as it allowed pupils to develop during the week the writing skills for the particular genre of the Big Write task they would be undertaking. Parents said they would prefer two days' notice as some children have after school clubs to attend and would also like to see the learning habit used on a Monday to give them an idea of the homework earlier.

In general, most parents agreed that as long as the quality of homework was high, the current quantity is sufficient.

Communication

A few parents said they felt communication from the teacher could be improved. Mr McIntosh said all teachers have a weekly drop in session which parents can use to either talk to the teacher or to look at their child's work. It is not intended for discussing problems and the school considers itself to have an open door policy.

Parents were reminded they could either attend a drop in session or they could make an appointment at the front office. Everyone agreed the office staff were extremely friendly and helpful.

Uniform

The school are in the process of reviewing their school uniform provider. Mrs Enever said she had contacted Tesco as other schools in the area were very happy with the quality and service. More details will follow.

Swimming

Parents said they were disappointed that they had not been informed as to why there was not any swimming this year. Mrs Enever explained that as children attend swimming in Year 2 and then again in Year 3 parents were not happy they had to pay out twice. It was then decided

to review the swimming policy which states that all pupils must be able to swim at least 25 metres by the end of Year 6. A new cycle of swimming will be put in place in the new academic year.

A few parents felt that there was not enough notice given for events taking place in school. Mr McIntosh said events were listed on the website, in newsletters and letters as early as possible but sometimes it is beyond our control to give more notice. The majority of the parents agreed plenty of notice was usually given.

Parentpay

Feedback from Parentpay has been really good and parents agreed that it is easy to use. Mrs Enever said all initial issues have been ironed out and an information sheet had been sent home with instructions for use. Parents are also invited to come into school if they require a member of staff to show them how to use it. Enquiries can be made at the front office.

Coffee mornings

The group have decided to hold a coffee morning once every couple of months to raise funds which can then be put into the school. This event will give parents the opportunity to get together to chat and share ideas.

The new curriculum

Mr McIntosh said as part of the new curriculum which comes into force as from September, the school will be looking at developing MFL. As a joint venture with the Infant school we will be holding a Commonwealth day in the summer which will enable each year group to look at different countries and their culture. Parents will be invited in for a picnic to share with their child(ren) and will get the opportunity to watch a 'Parade of nations' and presentations.

Parents asked if they could have a say in which language their child was taught. Mr McIntosh said that would not be possible for the next academic year but there was the possibility of surveying parents about it at a later date.

A few parents expressed an interest in running an after school club to teach foreign languages as this was their first language. They could offer Italian, Spanish and Dutch. Mr McIntosh thanked parents for their willingness to volunteer and contribute to the school's extra-curricular provision and said he would pass on relevant information to Mrs Vickers.

Changing for PE

The policy for changing for PE was questioned as some parents said their child was uncomfortable changing in the classroom in front of the opposite gender. The current policy states that children change together in the classroom up until the end of Year 5 but as with all policies this could be reviewed.

Parents asked if children could come into school dressed for PE but this would depend on when the lesson was as the school wants to maintain and uphold the value it places on the wearing of school uniform. The possibility of changing at lunchtime was also suggested and will be discussed with the Senior Leadership Team and Governors.

Date and time of next meeting

Tuesday 17th June at 2.30pm (coffee/tea served from 2.15pm)

Parents were asked if they could raise any questions before the next meeting.

Meeting ended 10.05am