

Parent Forum Meeting Minutes 29.01.2018.

Staff present: David Clarke, Claire Cunliffe.

Parents present: Claire Hatton, Emily Brown, Megan Sweeny, Payman Tamur, Emma Pearson, Amanda Litherland, Corrina Lukins, Rebecca Carter, Andrea Kelly, Esmail Lakdawala, Andrea Middlehurst, Julie Leech.

(Parents from Reception to Year 6 are represented).

Meeting began at 6 pm.

CC shared the aims of the group and shared the protocol for behaviour.

CC shared the 'Parent Partnership Policy' draft with parents and parents were given time to read this. CC explained that some points in the policy have been achieved but that we are working towards other points as part of our on-going work towards achieving the Leading Parent Partnerships Award. The draft policy was agreed by all parents.

Discussion then moved to the main agenda - homework. CC shared a hand out detailing current homework expectations throughout school in Reception, KS1 and KS2. Examples of homework tasks were circulated for parents to view.

#### Discussion of current homework.

Some Reception parents said that they felt they would like to increase the amount of homework given, specifically more reading and writing. CC explained that Reception blog pages are updated weekly detailing current Phonics and Maths focuses in school and that letters and their sounds and key words are sent home during the year. **Parents expressed a preference for receiving paper copies** detailing this rather than information being solely on the internet.

Parents like the introduction of the weekly 'Busy Book' tasks. Parents also felt that Phonics is a good starting point for homework.

A discussion of KS1 expectations showed a preference for the continuation of 'Busy Books' into Y1 rather than using the 'Learning Journey' Parents preferred the weekly tasks linked to the topic rather than one challenge set for the duration of the topic.

When discussing KS2 expectations parents felt the balance of tasks was good. The 'Spellings' homework was discussed as parents thought that the weekly tasks were too repetitive. Could something more creative be introduced? **Could spellings homework be varied with electronic spellings challenges or could there be an online platform for spelling?**

A parent expressed concern that there was a lack of communication of homework being completed and she was only made aware of this at a parent's evening six weeks later. **School needs to communicate what homework is set and how it is expected to be completed.**

**Could we have a homework diary (similar to high school) so that homework can be signed off and parents know it has been done correctly?** For example - what did their child achieve in their weekly spelling test? Some classes were sharing this information but others were not. **Can we have a spelling log?** At the moment there are "lots of bits of paper" but these can be misplaced.

Parents thought that the 'challenge' set by current homework tasks was about right.

#### What homework would parents like to see?

- **An overview of what has been done in school** - eg 'Ask me about' so that children can discuss what they have done in school.  
Mrs Martin's blog page was praised for keeping parents informed with up to date information but parents felt that blog pages were not consistent throughout school and that this put some parents at a disadvantage.
- **'Open days'** - parents have the opportunity to go in and look at what the children have been doing. Can the books be sent home once every half term or could parents come into school to look at them? This would also be an opportunity for people to see the school and all of the displays and work which the children are very proud of. These sessions could take place immediately after school the parents could visit classrooms and view work and books with the children. Parents felt that regular contact with parents was lost as children moved through school as the children become more independent.

#### What support would parents like to receive?

- **Parent workshops - Maths.** A meeting sharing information in preparation for tests.
- **A sharing of expectations.** Not all parents are familiar with the National Curriculum. Could we develop a guide to age related expectations for each year group and what support parents should be giving during homework tasks. This could be broken down into terms - what age band should a child be by Christmas/Easter/Summer? How can parents challenge greater depth readers?

How do parents know what books to encourage their child to read? Could these points become part of the Homework Policy?

Current Y5 comprehension tasks were praised because answers were sent home for parents to use as well as guidance on how to support children to complete the activity.

DC suggested a possible audit of parent knowledge to highlight support that is needed for parents - all parents present were open to this.

All parents agreed that routine is important as parents need to know when homework is due to be completed. All parents also agreed that flexibility is important and maybe a one warning system should be introduced.

CC thanked everyone for giving their time and for attending the meeting to share their views. Parents will be contacted via email regarding future meetings. A school webpage is to be set up specifically for the parent forum. CC asked parents for suggestions for future agenda meetings - post it notes were available for parents to jot down ideas if they did not wish to discuss them.

Meeting closed.

Future agenda items raised after the meeting

- Making parents aware of the stages of the complaints procedure.
- After school clubs/care.