

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016 @ 6pm

## Notes from Parent Forum Meeting

8 parents attended who represented YR – Y5

KL opened the meeting by discussing how the school had moved forward and responded to parents' suggestions from the last meeting

### Website

- Staff meeting to ensure similar information is put on by all year groups – common headings will now be used and updated weekly
- Outcome of parent survey has now been added
- Y6 have started collecting house points and results/cup will be presented to school at the end of term

### Marvellous me

- Up to date analysis was given to staff which summarised usage and high fives etc
- Class shares are now monitoring amount of MMs sent home – I've suggested having a joint account.
- Staff meeting to explore 'explain everything' and it's capabilities. All staff will be sending home an EE within the next week. KL showed Y2 explanation for adding on tens using a number line. Great response from parents – they loved it!

### Going forward

- Year group parent meeting – these meetings will now be planned in summer term to enable them to be delivered earlier in September. The content will be based on the invaluable feedback parents gave.
- Dates on website (front page) – majority of these will be past events celebrated so the dates shouldn't be confusing.
- New English leader will review reading records and expectations for both teachers and parents in regard to reading.

The rest of the meeting explored homework and parent workshops

### Homework

#### YR

- ✓ Having a photo on the front of the reading record is a great idea – maybe all year groups good do this
- ✓ Once a week is plenty (if it has to happen at all)
- ✓ 10 min task is plenty for reception as they are all super tired!
- ✓ Optional home learning tasks are a good idea – parents want to get involved.
- ✓ Links to websites are useful but not keen on online resources for children to access as Reception are too young for online games
- ✓ Great idea to have a homework folder so you don't have to search bag

#### How could we improve further?

- Could homework tasks be more active for the children e.g. finding something, taking photos, cutting out letters, drawing pictures etc. Copying letters from a sheet isn't always fun. Homework should always be fun!

- It seems to always be the same subject e.g. English – could this be varied?

## Y1/2

- ✓ Really like 'My Maths' – like the instant feedback and marking. Do teachers follow this up with the children/any reference made?
- ✓ Homework sheet is very useful giving an overview of everything expected each week for spellings, maths, homework, reading.
- ✓ Frequency of homework is good
- ✓ Homework book for Y2 is great with everything stuck in
- ✓ Children in Y2 can choose some of their own spellings they have got wrong in the week to challenge themselves
- ✓ Y2 send marvellous me when 100% is achieved in spelling test – could year 1 do this?

### How could we improve further?

- Online homework – do all children have access to a computer?
- Spellings is the most time consuming part of the homework, loose paper gets lost (doesn't really convey the importance of spelling to the children), no feedback each week, are previous spellings ever re-tested to check they have retained, spellings appear easy one week and then hard the next – no clear progression. Could spellings be sent through marvellous me?
- Currently no project homework given in Y1. Year 2 intersperse it which is great.
- Clearer idea of expectations e.g. capital letters, finger spaces, letter formation (Y1)
- With English homework do the children receive any feedback? (Y1)

## Y3/4

**X tables** – A weekly focus on specific ones would be good so they can be checked off. Current format not working. Can children use times tables squares in school?

**Reading** – Parents not clear on expectations of how often children should be listened to in school and at home. How should the reading records be used? Could children get chance to go to and change books from the library?

**Spellings** – Compulsory spellings from the curriculum are too easy. Easy, medium and hard options would be good to add to the website so parents can encourage level selection as some children always pick the easy option! It would be good to have the list of words which are expected to be learned by the end of the year.

**English** – Frequency is good and time it takes approx. 30 mins. Happy with ticks and crosses when marking and like the stickers or house points given. Like English in books not to move to being online as like the feedback from teacher. It would be good to have optional extras!

**Maths** – Good frequency 'weekly' and parents would expect maths h/w to take 30 mins. Prefer 'sheets' rather than my maths as unable to receive feedback from the teacher. It would be good to have optional extras!

Never get science homework – this would be good!

## Y5/6

**Amount** – Increase amount maybe 2 hours per week. Feel the amount has stayed static throughout each year at St James. More summer term homework after SATs in Y6 to prepare them for secondary and consider giving it on different days – again to support with the transition.

**Feedback** – Consequences of not doing homework to be made clear to children and parents. More detailed feedback in the books

**Presentation** – Try to avoid scrappy bits of paper. Stick in books or put in a HW folder so parents can clearly know what homework is and isn't.

**Spellings** – 6 spellings is often somewhat random and less useful than the high frequency word system in earlier years. Parents are unsure of how difficult or easy the words are.

**Reading** – not clear of expectations. Is it still important in Y5/6? Guidance please!

Science homework is rarely given. Online English homework would be good similar to my maths.

### **Parent Workshops**

What would help you to support your child more effectively at home?

- Maths workshops – year group specific and a booklet with methods in or PDF of booklet on website
- Homework – how much parent help should or shouldn't they give?
- Phonics refresher in Year 1 – target issues after screening test – how can we help our children improve?
- Y6 Sats meeting so important

To close the meeting I opened the discussion up to parents for any suggestions of future topics or 'burning issues' they had.

- Concern regarding hygiene in toilets – they are smelly and floors are often dangerously wet. Children not going to the toilet because of the current levels of hygiene. Are the cleaners cleaning them and are they being monitored throughout the day?
- Why didn't we do Samaritans Purse this year?
  - Like the new lunchtimes but 20 mins isn't long enough for children to eat their lunch
  - In the Y6 leavers evening could there be more of a mix of awards so they are not just for the elite! More personal for the children.

**Action:** KL to meet with JP to discuss next steps