

Parent Forum Meeting Notes 4.11.16

Attended Meeting:

Katy Lambon (Parent Voice Co-ordinator)
Angie Howard – Thomas (year 4)
Jo Garafalides (Year 2 and 4)
Caroline Halliday (Year 3)
Heidi Prince (Year 1)
Simon Trueick (Year 4)
Suzannah Kirby (Year 3)
Sarah Ellard (Year 1)

Summary

- KL opened the meeting and shared the main rationale/aims for the parent forum
 - To help raise standards in our school
 - To further open channels of communication between home and school
 - To establish mutually supportive relationships where trust and respect are at the forefront
 - To strengthen partnerships between parents, school and wider community
 - To share improvement ideas
 - To emphasise that their voice counts!

- **Marvellous me**

What is working well:

- Individual photos of children with personal messages
- Awards for achieving full marks on spellings (Y2)
- Videos demonstrating methods in maths (Y4)
- General reminders for whole class
- Children engaged by it – they like high fiving
- Good source of info – what's been learnt, hyperlinks, whiteboard interaction

How could it used better:

- More consistency between year groups, across year groups and class shares
- More specific guidelines for teachers so everybody is using it for the same things
- Parents would like to know what to expect e.g. how often, detail.
- Need more specific individual messages/badges – feel its not being used to its full potential (Y3)
- Could it replace newsletter
- Link to homework
- Use for rewarding spellings/homework
- Could TAs send whole year group messaging to ease workload of teachers – we appreciate the time constraints and many other tasks teachers need to carry out.
- Has it replaced dojos? Awards need to be given more regularly especially for individual.
- Will it fizzle out?

- **School Website**

What is it currently being used for:

- Calendar (though this may need more publicising that it is on there)
- Year group information pages
- Gives an overall picture of the school – better school image
- Residential updates
- Its kept up to date (though not house points)

How could it be improved further?

- Parents eve wasn't featured
- Date in box on event is confusing as it's the date it is put on to website rather than the date of the event
- Parents are missing the year group weekly newsletters

- House points need to be updated or removed
- Miss parent mail reminders – even if we could have a parent mail reminder to look at the website
- Over relying on people to look at it.
- Updates of parent survey haven't been added as it says it would be

- **Year group information meetings**

What information would we like shared at these meetings

- Have meetings earlier – in first couple of weeks
- More of a 'come to meet the teacher'
- Not so much powerpoint
- Have a crèche
- More interactive – less info
- Project overviews
- Detailed overview of year – week by week
- Expectations of what to expect for that year
- Chance to look at resources and tests e.g. phonics screen, KS1 Sats
- When school trips will be
- Daily timetable
- Highlight differences of what is expected in new year compared to last (academic/social view – managing expectations)
- Key dates e.g. sats dates
- Home school/reading books – what info do you want from us. Has this changed from previous years? How do new parents know?

- **What would like to discuss at future meetings?**

- Current reward system – concerned that there isn't enough individual reward/children feeling demotivated.
- Amount of homework – Y6 to secondary school transition
- Library
- Reading expectations in school – how often should children be heard in school? (individually and in guided reading)

Actions from meeting:

- KL to meet with JP to discuss the outcomes from meeting
- KL to send out an invite to parents in YR, 5 and 6 to ensure a cross section of parents from all year groups.

Ideas moving forward:

- Class shares to just have one 'marvellous me' account
- Staff or SLT to agree guidelines for use of marvellous me to ensure we are all using it in a similar way e.g. Spellings, teach me, frequency and how this is monitored,
- Letter sent out to parents detailing how MM will be used
- Need to re-visit whether teachers are using website weekly to replace newsletter as parents are not feeling they know what is going on compared to last year.
- Do parents know they need to look at website weekly? On what day?
- Website – house points/dates/parent survey needs to be addressed.
- Staff meetings in summer term to plan year group meetings to allow us to do them in first couple of weeks.