

Parents Voice Minutes

Meeting 16th December 2014

(Combined 9am and 7pm)

ATTENDEES

6 Parents

3 Governors

Guest Speaker – Helen Jennings and Marie Mansfield (FAIR Parenting Courses)

Visitor – Nicky Higgins, Family Link Worker from Wollaston Primary

AGENDA

1. Review of Minutes from previous meeting
2. Matters arising
3. Fair Parenting Courses
4. Creative Ideas – reading workshop
5. AOB

1. Minutes from the previous meeting

Agreed as a true representation of the meeting and approved.

2. Matters arising

No matters arising

3. Parenting Courses – FAIR – Helen Jennings and Marie Mansfield

Helen and Marie introduced themselves and their background and talked in detail about the type of support they can offer parents through their 'What a parent can do' 7 week course. Everyone who attended felt the course was a good solid **toolbox** for all types of parenting help and '**how to**' guide. Historically interest has been low, so the group felt school should communicate the benefits more so that those that might wish to come have more information about the course and can decide if they want to attend. Historically, those that wanted to come have been disappointed when it has been cancelled due to low numbers.

ACTION - The next course is to be scheduled. Jo Thom will draft a communication and circulate to the Parents attending today to see if it contains the right information before sending to parents.

4. Creative Ideas – Reading Workshops

Parent Voice discussed how not many parents attended the reading workshop in foundation stage, and how as a school we want to encourage parents that wish to, to feel they can come to school for events and classroom activities. Various ideas were discussed; however the one everyone liked what a system that works in Wollaston Primary explained by Nicky Higgins. A 'drop in day' a week is designated and a time allocated i.e. 9am – 9.15am. The date and time are fixed each week. Parents

can them come into class for drop in and read with their child, look at their work, do crafts etc, whatever is happening.

Parents at Wollaston like this because it's a regular event that they can drop into if they are available. Working parents often arrange to go to work later once a term, whereas other parents come once a month. **ACTION** - Parent Voice will suggest this idea to school as to if this is a workable idea for us or not. Parent Voice attendees felt it was less formal than a fixed event and therefore may appeal to more people.

4. AOB

DoJo - a parent told ICPS about a Do Jo App that they have seen operating in other schools and asked if it is something that can work at ICPS? It is an App that allows staff to award behaviour points throughout the day with a visual mascot in the classroom. Parents can view via the DoJo app, how their child is doing throughout the day. All agreed this was a good idea, but would it take time away from teaching to manage in the classroom? **ACTION** – Jo Thom to investigate and try and see DoJo in action and report back.

Tapestry – This is another online system being investigated for foundation stage. Progress towards Early Learning Goals are recorded online, and parents visit Tapestry to see how their children are progressing and achieving their goals. Teachers can load videos and samples of work for teachers to see. The Parent Voice attendees felt the same about this as they do about DoJo. **ACTION** – further investigation and report back.

After School Clubs - a question was asked regarding how children were escorted to Taekwondo Club. **ACTION** - Parent Voice to ask the question.

Tykwondo takes place in the KS1 hall. Children in years 1 and 2 walk into the KS1 hall next door as they do normally for assembly. This is next door to their classroom and does not involve them going outside at all.

When an after school club takes place in the KS2 hall, children from years 1 and 2 are either escorted to the KS2 hall, or the children go as a group and staff watch them to ensure the group arrive at the door. The club leader takes the register at the start of every session to check that the children have arrived.

Videoing KS1 Performance – A parent asked if the Xmas performances were being videoed tomorrow like the Macmillan Coffee morning and loaded to DB Primary class pages. **ACTION** – Parent Voice to ask the question.

School try to video children's performances wherever possible so that class pages can be updated. However the KS1 performance this year, Santa on Strike, is quite long and will be too large a file to load onto DBPrimary. There was also an evening and afternoon performance so that all parents could attend.

Parent Voice meeting frequency – A parent asked if parent voice could be held more often. We discussed that this would be unlikely as not many people attend currently when we hold a meeting every half term. If we were to hold a meeting twice a term that would be every 3 weeks (circa) and even less people would come.

NB: A parent wanted to thank ICPS for the Ice Skating that was arranged in December.

END