

Parents Voice Minutes

Meeting 23rd October 2014

(Combined 9am and 7pm)

ATTENDEES

9 Parents

3 Governors (1 x parent, 1 x Chair, 1 x Vice Chair)

Guest Speaker – Mrs Alison (New curriculum and expectations)

AGENDA

1. Review of Minutes from previous meeting
2. Matters arising
3. The New Curriculum and increased expectations – Mrs Alison
4. Videoing day time events to load to dbprimary
5. Feedback on Free School Meals for infants
6. AOB

1. Minutes from the previous meeting

Agreed as a true representation of the meeting and approved.

2. Matters arising

No matters arising

3. The New Curriculum and increased expectations

Mrs Alison talked everyone through a power point presentation explaining the new curriculum and how it has changed. For those that could not attend, A copy is attached with these minutes.

Mrs Alison provided everyone with a draft summary of key objectives for each year group to ascertain if they are useful or something parents would like. Was there anything that could be better explained?

All agreed that the leaflets were clear and informative and that they should be circulated to parents – Mrs Alison to organise.

Parents suggested a glossary of terms for subjects, and possibly grammar workshops for parents – Mrs Alison to investigate.

A parent asked about Higher and Lower Achieving pupils and whether they would be working towards the year below or year above objectives. Mrs Alison said yes they would.

All agreed that parents evening would be a good time to circulate the leaflets and that they should along with the power point be loaded onto the parent voice section of the website.

4. Videoing of daytime events to load to dbprimary.

This agenda item was raised via the parent voice forum, and subsequently day time events where possible, are videoed and loaded to class pages for parents that can't attend in the day time. Parents were pleased with this as a step forward.

5. Feedback of Free School Meals for infants

Parent Voice asked for feedback on lunchtime meals. Whilst some have experienced system problems early on the consensus was a good one. Children were enjoying the meals and although parents who have switched from packed lunches now have less sight over how much their child eats, all agreed that Kingswood were working well.

6. AOB

Photographs – feedback on school photographs was mixed. The majority feel that with so many children to photograph in a short space of time there is little time for the photographer to relax the children and get genuine smiles which is what parents really want. This was similar feedback to last year.

Also, a parent did highlight the prices and offers were not as favourable as last year – ie discounts for two prints the same size were not there this year.

Parent Voice to feedback the comments to school.

Requests for money – some parents feel there are times when there are continuous requests for financial contributions for parents. Most parents don't have an objection to this, but would prefer these to either be notified more in advance, be spread out more or definitely not at the end of the month.

Behaviour award – A parent suggested that maybe a behaviour award could be introduced for those that are consistently good. The idea stemmed from parent worries over their child being upset that they hadn't bought home a class teddy, and under the impression they had to be naughty, to then be good. Parent Voice confirmed that this would not be the case. Parent Voice advised that every teacher interacts and engages with their pupils and decides how best to manage the dynamics and motivation of the children, and how to reward good behaviour. Parent Voice suggested that if a parent has a question about how teddies or similar are earned, the teacher would be the best person to ask.

MyMaths – a parent said she had concerns over Mymaths seeming to be the main maths homework method. The parent said they personally would prefer paper homework so children can show their workings rather than doing it online.

Parent Voice advised that teachers will always issue paper maths homework for anyone who asks, as many families don't have access to a PC.

Beat the Clock MyMaths questions were an example given as something that does not allow workings out to be shown. Parent Voice advised that any concerns regarding MyMaths or homework specifically would be best answered by the relevant teachers.

END

