

Parents Voice Minutes

Meeting 02/10/13

ATTENDEES:

Julia Alison	Head Teacher
Julie Lea	Vice Chair of Governors
Jo Thom	Parent Governor
Trudy Jones	Parent
Sara Willmott	Parent
Sara Bartley	Parent
Mrs Ventriglia	Parent
Mrs Davis	Parent
Kerry Western	Parent
Lorna Laban	Parent
Jude Turner	Parent
Karen Harrison	Parent
Suzanne Jennings	Parent
Helen Kelly	Parent

AGENDA:

1. Feedback from recent parent questionnaire
2. Assertive Mentoring
3. Relaunch/refresh Parents Voice
4. AOB

1) FEEDBACK FROM QUESTIONNAIRE - Mrs Alison

Mrs Alison presented feedback from the recent parent questionnaire. The main points covered are below however a copy of the presentation will be sent to parents – **(ACTION COMPLETED – posted onto Parent Voice section of the website with these minutes)**

- Mrs Alison advised that she had discussed issue of homework with teachers and pupils via school council and house assemblies. There is no strong research evidence to say that homework raises achievement levels but it's been shown that some is better than none as long as it's age/stage appropriate.

- The presentation confirmed that parent involvement increases completion levels

- Why homework?

a) Practice learning skills (i.e. times tables)/ extend knowledge/ prepare for further learning

b) Parents sharing learning experience

c) Opportunity for individual attention/support

d) Learn life skills (self-discipline/independence/responsibility)

Parents commented as follows: maybe children should be able to rate homework.

- Children appear to enjoy project work/ making things/more interactive type homework.
- Could examples of homework be put onto "db Primary platform"? All agreed this was a good idea.
- Homework should come with a learning objective so parents and child know what they want to achieve.

2) ASSERTIVE MENTORING - Mrs Alison

Mrs Alison presented an explanation of Assertive Mentoring and the following points were covered:

- For KS2 children
- Children to take increased responsibility for their own learning
- Children will have termly meeting with their mentor (generally class teacher)
- Next steps for learning will be identified (has been used since April for maths)
- Helps to identify class/individual needs. (Has identified times table weakness with multiplication and that is now a whole school target)
- Now includes attitude and attendance
- Parents will receive a copy of their child's assertive mentoring record sheet

3) RELAUNCH/REFRESH PARENT VOICE GROUP

Parents discussed the feedback / comments made during open evening (July 2013) and discussed ideas of what parents want to discuss in an open forum in the future.

- Improve communication - minutes from meetings to be sent to all parents from this meeting forward. – **ACTION COMPLETED - these minutes will be posted on the Parent Voice tab along with future agendas and relevant documents to be shared**
- Would a Parent voice rep for each year group be worthwhile?
- Sub-groups for key subjects?
- Utilize "db forums" for parent discussion – **ACTION to be taken forward for investigation by Governors.**

All agreed that we need to utilize "Parent voice tab" on school website. Parents can leave ideas for discussion by a certain date so an agenda for meeting can be set. Agenda can

then be sent out to parents prior to the meetings. **ACTION - identify small group of parents willing to take responsibility for tab once set up.**

ACTION - Re-inform parents that a parent's voice suggestion box is available in the foyer of reception area to leave ideas/suggestions in. To be placed in prominent position at parents evening.

4) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Gold Award – parents should reply to office to say if they are attending. The school then know that parents have received the message.

Spellings - Parents felt children should have spellings to learn at home. Either a group of words per week or a sound to then be tested on at school. **ACTION - to feed back to school for discussion/feedback.**

Cake Sale – dates are available on school website. May be subject to change due to other events at school. Parents asked “can a poster be put up a few days before as a reminder?”

Accelerated Reading Scheme - Parent asked if children haven't had the opportunity to do quiz at school could they do it after school? Mrs Alison said she could organise a trial of computers being available in the library until 4pm so children could complete quiz once parent helpers have been trained.

If any parents would like to volunteer to get trained so they can help children access the right books that would be really useful.

School Phone Communication - Parent commented when the school rang her mobile phone it came up as a private number so she didn't answer the call. Is there any way for this to be changed so that the school number is displayed and parents are more likely to answer the call? **ACTION - Mrs Alison will look into this.**

Parentmail- Parents asked if an office email be included in the signature so parents can respond if appropriate. **ACTION - Mrs Alison to address.**

Cloakroom KS1 area - Parents asked if pegs be numbered 1-100 instead of each class being labelled e.g. 1-25. This caused confusion initially as there are 4 lots of numbers and children didn't know where to put their things. **ACTION – to be considered.**

Lunchtimes - Parental concerns were voiced regarding all children mixing. Younger children are getting knocked over by accident. Could there be a safe zone for younger children? For example the playground near KS1 building be exclusively for KS1 use but younger children able to access other parts of the playground should they wish? **ACTION- Julie Lea will speak to Mrs Alison and Governors and feedback. ACTION COMPLETED - JL spoke with Mrs Alison about this and Lunchtime supervisors to be made aware of concerns and to keep look out for incidents however didn't want to go back to segregation as this reduced play space. There is a Friendship Bench which children could use as a quiet area and Year 6 have been trained as play leaders. This term additional lunchtime staff have been employed to supervise reception children in their own playground at lunchtimes before they are integrated into the main school.**

Maths Workshop - Could school arrange another maths workshop? **ACTION - to be considered by Mrs Alison. Parent voice to decide what they would like the workshop to cover and for which age groups.**

Seeing is believing tours - Could school arrange more "Seeing is believing" tours? These tours had happened in previous years but not recently due to lack of take up by parents. **ACTION - to be investigated by Mrs Alison and Governors.**

NEXT MEETING:

All agreed that one meeting per half term is enough, especially with the launch of the Parent Voice tab on the website and a DB Primary Parent Voice forum. Next meeting date to be after half term and communicated to all parents with agenda. Whilst evening meetings are currently not well attended, all agreed an evening meeting will be arranged next term.

END