

Parent Forum Meeting 26/1/2023

Attending: Doug Gubbins (Chair), Rebecca Braunton (Reception), Jon Carre (Y1), Becky Coombs (Reception), Kate Stanton (Y1)

Apologies: Daisy Drummond (Nursery)

Xmas Feedback and the Coming Year

- Children and parents enjoyed the Christmas Quiz Night and the activities such as the Pantomime visit and the Minky Moos nursery show. The Reception pantomime saw better success in a morning slot. Ticketing for the events was well organised and helped things run smoothly.
- The Quiz evening raised £605 with thanks to the PTA.
- Upcoming events in Easter and autumn term (Harvest) thanks to our partnership with The Spire, including Mucky Easter/Harvest.

School Report Template

- DG showed an example of past and current report templates and explained the issuing of a mid-year report in order to foster parental support in key areas and to improve work/life balance for teachers.
- Report takes form of a letter from the teacher to the student on the front page and a back page with age-related expectations, progress on individual subject, and how to support at home. DG increased focus on individual tailored reports rather than a cut-and-paste format while acknowledging the workload on teachers.
- BCP council standards are two parents' evenings per academic year plus school reports. At previous PFG meeting it was fed back that parents' eve slots were too short at ten minutes and there was not a lot of time to see examples of children's work in class.
- Parents expressed that second page of report does not clearly indicate areas where children need support at home. It could do with a condensed and concise list of subjects and the level at which the child is currently performing that is clear enough for parents to read and concise enough that teachers do not have to overwrite.
- DG to work on a second page and release to PFG for feedback.
- Front page of report with child's photo was discussed and all agreed it was unnecessary.

Home Learning

- Homework was discussed with many parents raising that the homework was not always engaging or relevant. Parents are struggling if children do not engage with the activity and are concerned about falling behind. DG reiterated that home reading three times weekly should be the focus.
- All parents praised the curriculum information evening with DG noting that attendance at the evening meeting for Reception was very high. JC suggests a future meeting on Teams/recorded for parents who aren't able to attend.
- DG to link to online curriculum in the next newsletter.
- 'Cursive font' to be removed from the Y1 sheets as cursive is now not the focus and the font can be hard to read.

- Parents suggested a letter formation sheet and a classroom-focused activity in alternating weeks.
- KS raised that spellings/homework given out in Y1 do not allow parents to see what the children can achieve in the classroom. It was discussed that future homework activities will be based on what the children are learning and achieving in class.
- Achievement assemblies where children can show off their achievements and work in the workbook format like what is seen during Parents Eves were discussed, to follow in due course.
- The 'Whoops' sticker was discussed – PFG feedback suggested perhaps a language change to a 'reading reminder'.

AOB

- DG: non-urgent classroom communication (email address) will be rolled out on a trial basis after half-term, with clear guidelines: i.e. non-urgent matters only, no immediate response, and email will not be monitored outside of office hours. DG to write to parents and trial for half a term.
- Reception classes to have a chance to access the book vending machines.

Actions:

- School reports to be reassessed and sent to PFG for feedback.
- 'Whoops' stickers to be revised.
- Achievement assemblies to be arranged for each class ('Time to Shine' emails sent 6/2/23)
- PFG to continue to ask for feedback and direct parents to resources such as the website and newsletters.
- Future information evenings to be recorded and/or slideshows put on website/emails for parents who cannot attend.