

Minutes from PFG meeting on Thursday 26th June 2020 at 1900.

Present: Kate, Kayleigh, Becky, Nikkita, Katarzyna, Doug, Peter

An agenda had been set in advance and the following topics were discussed.

1. Reflections on the year

- The feedback on the year was mainly positive.
- Parents feel communication is strong and there are opportunities to view children's work across the year – particularly through Time to Shine Assemblies.
- With Transfer Day on the horizon, many children were becoming anxious about who will be in their class next year and with school deciding this year not to mix classes, it was felt that by also letting the children know, this may reduce any worries they may have.
- From speaking to reception families, the feedback on our new approach of giving the children time to settle into school, before deciding on final classes, has resulted in much more settled and balanced classes in Angelfish and Seahorses – making a much more conducive learning environment.
- We have taken on previous feedback and next academic year, the reception children start full-time school a week earlier than in previous years.
- Some children new to schooling found the full five-day week quite daunting right at the start. On reflection, if parents would like a reduced timetable/staggered start during those first 4 weeks of school, through discussions with the class teacher, this is something that we could potentially offer on a case-by case basis.
- School reports continue to be a real strength and all feedback was positive.
- Parents also find the half termly overviews useful, informing them about what children will learn in the classroom.
- We talked about whole school celebrations: Christmas activities remain strong. Bringing Sports Day forward to April has also been well received. Families enjoy our Community Picnic and also enjoy coming into our Time to Shine assemblies. This year reception families really found the kinetic letter workshop useful.
- We have had no further comments regarding home learning – the 3 reads and spellings remain a priority and we are currently seeing around a 50% uptake on the Purple Mash homework.
- There have been no further parental concerns following the P.E kit consultation back in the Autumn Term.
- The whole school community was delighted with the recent Ofsted inspection with Parent View being incredibly positive.

2. Personal development at Old Town

- Doug shared a display which captures how some elements of Personal Development are promoted at Old Town.
- Not only do we follow the Jigsaw PSHE scheme (which can be found on the curriculum pages of the school website), we also specifically teach personal development through our R.E curriculum and through the school values.
- Focused assemblies also remind the children the importance of staying safe when out in the environment. This includes RNLI water safety workshop, South West Train Level Crossing lessons, BCP road crossing experiences and Mini First Aid workshops -

parents felt that these were useful and beneficial to the children – with some hazards you don't get a second chance e.g. touching the live railway line!

- There was a discussion about the different faiths at Old Town and equally understanding that some of our families may have no faith. Old Town follows the BCP R.E syllabus and touches on Christianity, Judaism, Islam and Sikhism. Further religions are then taught/explored as the children move up into Junior/Secondary schools.
- It was discussed how we could explore further religions during assembly times. It was suggested that as Doug leads the core assemblies each week, it might be nice for different members of staff to introduce the children to different personal development aspects that are important/relate to them e.g. a Teacher/TA with a passion for fitness/looking after animals.
- Can National and Local holidays like St Patricks Day or Harry Paye Day be acknowledged in school in some way?
- Parents have a good knowledge of the school values. It was a good exercise capturing the parents voice as to how the children are displaying/applying the values outside of school. This year we focused on respect and independence, next year we will focus on curiosity and resilience. Parents contributions have formed two displays.
- A question was also raised in relation to Mini First Aid workshops – whilst we teach the children how to call for help e.g. dial 999, with today's society having locked mobile phones, how are the children taught to make the 999 call. Doug to follow this point up.
- It was discussed how at Junior school children watch a daily episode of Newsround to give them an age-appropriate understanding about what is going on in the world around them.
- Parents talked about how Tony Boxes are really useful at giving children information. Doug to explore.

3. Festivals of importance

- We spent time talking not only about R.E but also things that relate to us as a school community.
- It was talked about how we could include diabetes week, Down Syndrome day into our assembly cycle.
- Cultural celebrations such as St Patrick's Day and Shrove Tuesday could be included as assembly 'add-ons' as opposed to trying to squash them into an already packed curriculum.
- Do we have any families who are willing to come in and share cultural heritage (we know children love a visitor)!
- Things such as anti-bullying week and Pride week should also be included.
- Next year it is 40th anniversary of Harry Paye – the famous Poole pirate. What could school do to celebrate this event?

4. Views on fundraising

- We discussed the frequency of fundraising across the school.
- Currently we support both national events (Children in Need) and local charities (Ashley's Birthday bank).

- Doug explained how ABB support many families across the school, so we feel that it is important to give back.
- We also ask for donations to support PFA events such as raffles and Easter Eggs.
- There were no concerns raised, however financial pressures were recognised and we don't want families to feel 'overloaded'.
- It was suggested that with national incentives we would perhaps send the QR code to donate, rather than ask children to bring in money – Doug felt that this would also assist in reducing workload and families who were struggling with finances, would not need to worry or feel any embarrassment.
- Parents have enjoyed the PFA events on offer this year – it has been good to trial new ones such as the Easter egg hunt.. Friday Freeze has been missed – Becky kindly offered to donate a freezer (which has now arrived) 😊

5. Any other business

- It was asked if Carla Miller would re-start her parent groups. These ran up to COVID and supported parents across a variety of different themes – behaviour/finance/mental health/cooking. These groups are rescheduled to start next year in the United Reform Church next door. More information will follow.