

Headteacher Update to Parent Council

As agreed at the last Parent Council Meeting, the agenda would consist of the three items raised through the Parent Survey (May 2019) and then subsequent AOB items raised by parents.

Communication

The school now has a new website, which has an up to date calendar to which parents can subscribe (this means that updates will automatically appear on their phones).

The school no longer uses Facebook as a means of communication as not all parents use Facebook and some commented that they felt that they were ‘forced’ into using this in order to get information. The use of blogs on our school website has replaced this.

The Headteacher Newsletter is now weekly rather than bi-weekly and now includes links to the school website highlighting blog posts and specific news.

Homework

A new homework policy has been introduced and is being ‘trialled’ across the year. It focuses on key skills that parents can support with at home (specifically spelling and multiplication tables). Weekly homework will be introduced to the Year 6 children after Christmas in preparation for entry to secondary education.

There is a new section on the school website entitled ‘Supporting Learning at Home’, which has links to specific programmes for Maths and different strategies for the teaching of spelling. The next step is to develop the ‘phonics’ section of the website for the support of early reading.

Accelerated Reader is going to be introduced into the school from January for Key Stage 2 children to ensure that these children are progressing through reading books and continuing to develop their ability and enjoyment of reading.

Feedback

Blogs are used to update parents on learning within the school; these are promoted on Facebook and will also soon be promoted on Twitter. We are investigating whether or not it is possible to allow parents to ‘subscribe’ to a blog, i.e. Year 4, which would then be emailed to parents.

The structure of parental consultations has been discussed. Some parents prefer the current system of morning and afternoon appointments although it is recognised that the ‘middle of the day sessions’ are less desirable. Other parents prefer an evening session. It is proposed that some early evening sessions will be offered at the next parental consultation in February/March (until 7.30pm).

The school is adapting a progression tool to be used across the school so that parents have a greater understanding of what each standard looks like (Maths example below). These will be in place for all curriculum subjects by the end of the year.

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Addition & Subtraction: Calculations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> add and subtract one-digit and two-digit numbers to 20, including zero <p>Autumn 2 Spring 1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> add and subtract numbers using concrete objects, pictorial representations, and mentally, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a two-digit number and ones a two-digit number and tens two two-digit numbers adding three one-digit numbers <p>Autumn 2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> add and subtract numbers mentally, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a three-digit number and ones a three-digit number and tens a three-digit number and hundreds add and subtract numbers with up to three digits, using formal written methods of columnar addition and subtraction <p>Autumn 2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> add and subtract numbers with up to 4 digits using the formal written methods of columnar addition and subtraction where appropriate <p>Autumn 2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> add and subtract whole numbers with more than 4 digits, including using formal written methods (columnar addition and subtraction) add and subtract numbers mentally with increasingly large numbers <p>Autumn 2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> perform mental calculations, including with mixed operations and large numbers use their knowledge of the order of operations to carry out calculations involving the four operations <p>Autumn 2</p>