



Parent Forum Feedback

Last Meeting: Wednesday 5th December 2018

Apologies: Amanda McCracken, Juli Hallam, Louise Harrison

Present: Laura Tottie, Nicola Long, Lisa Sandham, Jeanette Buller, Zennie Major, Gabby Hannibal, Heather Daluz Vieira

Parent Forum Representatives Information:

Please visit the school's website to find information regarding the parent forum representatives. This can be located under the parent information tab.

Representatives can also be contacted via email at: parentforum@chapelfordvillageprimary.co.uk

Parents should include their child's year group and class in the title of any email to ensure it reaches the correct representative e.g. Year 4 Class 15. Parents can also email Mrs Tottie (DHT) directly regarding any issues relating to parent forum by including 'Mrs Tottie' in the title of the email.

Home Learning feedback

General feedback on home learning

Some parents have said that the amount of home learning isn't enough with other saying that it is too much. It was clarified that the home learning pack given out to EYFS parents at parents evening is just there to be used to support home learning rather than additional work to be done. It is a tool to help if required.

It was noted that home learning isn't statutory but it is encouraged as it is beneficial to children and where children are asked to read 5 times a week, this doesn't need to be a school provided book and can be books from home.

A parent had raised a question regarding the spelling tests and another parent questioned how the spelling journals are to be used.

The response - It was acknowledged that there were some misunderstandings regarding the guidance issued relating to spellings and how children are expected to use the spelling journals. It was explained that following past experience and reviewing research, a one size fits all method that was previously used for learning spellings is not the most productive way for most children. Each child will now receive 5 spellings in their book that they are particularly struggling with and are therefore tailored to be more specific to them. The spelling journal are supposed to be used in the best way for each child, this may be by using spelling pyramids, look cover see etc. Some are now being signed by teachers when they've seen them so parents know they have been reviewed. Rather than formal spelling tests, the children will work with partners to assess how they are getting on.

A parent said that they like paper based home learning.

Response - All home learning provided should be a mixture of paper based and online based to support different learning styles and approaches.

A parent said that it was useful last year when the home learning deadlines etc were posted in the classroom windows.

Response - there should be a sticker in the front of all books to say what home learning goes out on what days and when it is due in. A general list ie maths goes home on a Thursday and is due on a Tuesday could go in each classroom window as a reminder.

A parent shared how positive they felt the year 6 drop ins and boosters were in supporting children to develop more independence when completing home learning and they felt this was having a positive impact.

Response - school shared the positive impact seen by these in children's attitudes to learning, developing independence in preparation for high school and impacting on the children's attainment and progress. It was also shared that the 2018 KS2 SATS results were a significant improvement for the school with the attainment benchmarks for children achieving the expected level above national at reading, writing, maths

and combined. This was celebrated and the parent forum felt this should be shared more widely. It was shared that there were banners outside school to congratulate the children and now this data has been validated this can be shared more widely with parents.

Fundraising event & CHAPTA

Only a small number of parents came to a recent meeting to look at fundraising for the school. It was suggested that some parents may think that it is still being run in the same manner as previously with a large time commitment required. It was explained that it is now being run in conjunction with school staff and we are wanting ad hoc help for specific events rather than high commitment. The school needs more helpers for events or the school may not be able to run so many in future ie for discos etc and reps were asked to highlight this to parents.

It was asked if there could be a calendar of fundraising events to promote to parents. A series of events was not set at the previous meeting due to the lack of potential volunteers and it was agreed that the school should hold another meeting in Spring term and the reps will promote it to try and get a better response to take things forward.

It was suggested that if a specific aim was set ie 'we need to raise £xx for xx resources or event' then people may get more involved.

A parent raised why only 1 child from each class was involved in the duck race.

Response - this was a new format for children in need in which the school were aiming to complete different activities than the usual dressing up for the day. It was agreed that whilst the principals for the activity was a great idea it may have been difficult to run with the amount of children, space and weather. It was also acknowledged that the staff involved in organising the event should be praised and thanked for their efforts. To resolve this in the future each year have a nominated a charity to support and each year group is devising one event for their charity that will be run at some stage during the year. This will mean less children involved in the fundraising which will allow for greater involvement.

Any other business

A parent asked about the school photographs, where they were and why they had taken so long.

Response - The photographs have been sent out earlier that day. There was a problem with the supplier which is now resolved but Mrs Hewson will be writing to them explaining the concerns raised to try and avoid this in future.

A parent asked - Star learners and readers of the week - The awards are published in the newsletter but what acknowledgement do the children personally get.

Response - Each child receiving a star learner award is given a certificate in assembly to celebrate their achievement. The names will continue to be published on the newsletter but due to time constraints on the admin staff, they will no longer be published on Facebook.

A parent highlighted that there was some litter seen in the school grounds including an aerosol can.

Reply - The maintenance officer does a sweep of the grounds in the morning and things like this should be picked up daily. This will be shared with him.

A parent raised a question about letters being sent about attendance and how they may be perceived if sent to a parent of a child who was off school due to illness.

Reply - These letters are to inform parents of attendance percentages which is a statutory requirement but the school try to do it in a sensitive manner where there are specific issues.

A parent raised a concern regarding the GDPR breach.

Response - This was specific to EYFS and Y6. It was noticed very quickly and the letter was recalled and because it was sent electronically via Parent Mail, the school were able to delete it from the system and

stop anyone who hadn't viewed it from doing so. The school were also able to see who had viewed it and to ask them to confirm that they had deleted it. This was reported to the GDPR team who classified it as low risk and said that the school took appropriate and quick action.

A few parents have complained about other parents parking in front of the barrier when dropping their children off in the morning. This is blocking the access to the school's disabled parking and is also making it difficult to drive around that corner of the main car park.

Reply - a separate letter will be sent out asking for parents to be more considerate and the school will look at the capacity of the maintenance officer to see if he is able to stand there to hopefully stop it.

A parent asked about the differences between ParentPay and Parent Mail as the similar names is slightly confusing.

Response - ParentPay is run external to the school so unfortunately the similar name is out of our control. ParentPay is run by Warrington Council and is used for paying for school meals and Parent Mail is used for booking and paying for trips and all other things that require payment.

A parent asked about what happens when there is staff absence and the implications for the children.

Response - If a teacher has a longer term absence parents will be sent a letter explaining what provision is being put in place.

Parents reported that there are parents still being inconsiderate to the EYFS children and parents in the morning by walking through the lines.

Response - this has been mentioned in newsletters but a specific letter will be sent out. It was also suggested that it may help if the EY parents could step back from the lines as well to help them to be more defined and visible to people. The school will look at the potential of a staff member directing parents away from the lines when possible.

A parent mentioned the safety pins on bullying ribbons and asked about their safety for EY children.

Reply - These had been made by staff and a risk assessment was completed. All of the ribbons were fitted to EY children by staff but this will be reviewed for future events.

A parent raised concerns about the safety of the construction traffic for the health centre including some of the vehicles being driven too fast.

Response - the construction company are coming into school to do an assembly to discuss the building works and to do a safety talk and staff will talk to them about the speeding issues.

A parent asked about the younger siblings not being allowed to attend the EY Nativity and it was asked if Lets be Kids could be used as a crèche.

Reply - Past experience has shown that it is difficult for the EY children to ignore potentially disruptive younger children and it has caused issues for both the audience and for the children performing in the past. There is also a capacity issue as we are only allowed a set number in the hall which would very quickly be exceeded if younger children were to attend. Whilst Lets be Kids have provided a crèche in the past for an event, this was for something in the evening.

A parent asked about the availability of drinking water and about encouraging children to drink more during the day.

Reply - the school will speak to staff to ask them to promote drinking more throughout the day but it was also noted that the EY children are not restricted on when they can have drinks as their bottles are available to them throughout the day.

A parent raised an issue about the disco being a 'Winter disco' rather than a 'Christmas disco'.

Response - This has been done to be inclusive to all children regardless of backgrounds and beliefs.

A parent asked about the teacher led Booster sessions on a Tuesday. Some are happening and some aren't.

Response - There have been some schedule clashes resulting in some not taking place, this will be looked into to avoid this ongoing.

A parent said that when a teacher phone from the classroom phone, it says on the caller ID that the call has come from the high school.

Response - this is because they are on a different system to the main office phone but if a parent needs to call back then they should call the main office number. It has been mentioned on newsletters but a reminder could be included on a future newsletter.

A parent said that the School Council website needs updating.

Response - This will be done ASAP.

A parent asked what the lunchtime superstars is about and why it is blank for EYFS.

Response - This relates to the dojo treats and rewards behaviour over lunchtime. It is currently blank for EYFS because they are starting using this system after Christmas. The different systems across the school are introduced to EYFS gradually throughout the year to avoid overloading the children at the start of the year.

Year 2 representative - No-one has come forward yet so Julie Hallam has said that she will continue as the rep until someone else is found.

Actions

School - ensure there is a sticker in the front of all home learning books to say what day it goes out and when it is due in. A general list ie maths goes home on a Thursday and is due on a Tuesday could go in each classroom window as a reminder.

School - to write to parents regarding the CHAPTA format and organise another fundraising meeting over the Spring term.

Reps - highlight to parents the need for more parent helpers at fundraising events and to help to explain the new structure of the fundraising team.

School - to share concerns regarding timescales with Academy photography and aim to ensure this is resolved in the future

School - share with maintenance staff concerns regarding aerosol found on the school site

School - write to parents regarding parking issues (especially at the front gates).

School - write to parents asking them to avoid walking through the EY lines in the mornings.

School - talk to the construction company about the safety of their drivers and speeding concerns raised by parents.

School - update the School Council website.

School - put a reminder about calling the school office number when replying to calls made from the classroom phones.

School - ask staff to promote drinking more water as appropriate.

School - continue to advertise Year 2 opening for a parent forum rep.

Dates of future meetings -

6th February 2019 @ 5.30pm

Minutes of the meeting shared by Mrs Heather Da Luz Vieira

(Many thanks to all of the parent forum representatives for the support and to Heather for her time and support to complete the minutes)