

**Parent partnership meeting summary: Wellbeing, Belonging and SEND: 17.10.25**

Mr. Parker introduced the meeting by stating that although there was a vague agenda based upon well-being, belonging, and SEND, it is important that these meetings are driven by what parents want to discuss, and as those three areas are so inextricably linked, the floor was open to parents to bring up any issues they felt relevant.

We began by discussing how certain behaviours are managed. One parent mentioned keeping children in at break times and that there shouldn’t be any blanket sanctions like for lining up, etc. Mr Parker commented that there has certainly been more of a drive this year on respect and responsibility and a behaviour curriculum, and added that all children benefit from a calm, structured and safe atmosphere and environment and that consistency is key to this. Mr. Parker added that behaviour measures at our school are not punitive but there needs to be opportunity for staff to outline to children that there are consequences to our actions. Consistency with midday staff was discussed and whilst Mr. Parker agreed that this can be challenging due to inconsistencies with staffing, it is important that key messages get through to staff and communication with teaching staff here is imperative.

Recent parent meetings with reception teachers were discussed. Some parents noted that whilst it is appreciated that time is taken for these meetings to share issues and to discuss their children, some forewarning might have been offered due to some of their sensitivities discussed at the meetings. Some parents were under the impression that all parents were meeting with teachers and so this raised a few concerns. Mr Parker agreed that perhaps a letter prior to the meetings to all parents to outline that some may be invited to a meeting to discuss their children if needed, would be fitting. It was agreed by all that this needs to be done prior to parents evening next month, and all agreed that there should not be any surprising information that comes up at parents evening – any concerns should have been brought up before, especially if it concerns behaviour or possible SEND. Whilst on the topic of SEND, there was some conversation about the complexity of need within all mainstream schools at the moment and how it is critically important for schools to remain open and transparent in their communications with parents, and to listen to parents who know their children best. Mrs Helyar emphasised the challenges here and the importance of working together.

The various different days that school acknowledges were discussed. It was pointed out that there have been a lot of specific days recently, that all seem to have come at once - World Mental Health Day, Wear Red Day, Diwali, and it was brought up that this can be challenging for our neurodivergent children in particular, as well as their parents. Mr Parker acknowledged that in circumstances where these days are so close together, school could be a little bit more sensitive when considering how to manage this, perhaps by means of wearing a ribbon/badge or some kind of accessory, something proposed by parents. Mr Parker did stress however that extremely important messages are given on days like this and the difference in children wearing something different is memorable, and so as long as the message is given in the right way, days like these help children’s personal development and awareness of societal issues, and the role they play as young citizens in today’s challenging world.

The above did link with the mental load of parents and it is broadly acknowledged how this should be taken into account in supporting each other within a school community where everyone should belong and have a sense of belonging. When discussing belonging, it was noted that this is a strength of the school and parents acknowledged that they regularly see the benefits of how the school’s curriculum is embedded into school life and how, for example, class names and charities support the children’s sense of belonging and awareness of equality and equity. It was also mentioned that the values and ethos of the school are a real strength and bring a sense of togetherness amongst the children and provide a grounding for their behaviours. It was mentioned that the children often talk about the values in everyday life. This was wonderful to hear. Forest School was also mentioned as a real positive when discussing well-being and adds to the school’s ethos and offer when supporting its children.

The final thing discussed was the importance of strong communication. Mr. Parker acknowledged that there were one or two dates wrong in the newsletter and how this is incredibly important to get right. He added that WhatsApp groups are incredibly beneficial for parents and that whilst school have nothing to do with these groups, it is more than happy to help facilitate parents gaining access to these and the importance of our families who don’t speak English as a first language in particular furthering their sense of belonging.

It was discussed how WhatsApp groups are incredibly useful for sharing information amongst parents and Mr Parker said that whilst everyone appreciates the opportunity to offload, if people have any issues, they should be reminded that school are generally very open to feedback and would appreciate any issues coming to them, so that they can address what they can address.

The meeting ended by Mr Parker and Mrs. Helyar thanking everybody for their attendance and their support of the school.