

Parents' Forum Minutes of Meeting -Tuesday 29th November, 9.30-10.30am.

Present: Helen Easton, Tracey Mawby, Mel Elliott, Zoe Marshall, Gaelle Daune-Daignan, Afra Kelsall, Linda Marsden, Helen Ford, Teacher Karen Cooper

Apologies: Ellie Hall, Andleeb Khan

Apologies: Vicky Ball

Agenda items: Homework, Reading in school, School Farmers Market, Twitter

1. Homework

There was a lot of discussion about the type and amount of homework, and also the different children's responses to tasks set. Parents had widely varying experiences; some children dislike any type of homework, others prefer English or Maths and others love any assignments including the 'Bingo' style of additional homework. As a result, it was felt if parents wanted more guidance on homework they should talk to their child's teacher about prioritising assignments and perhaps discussing individual objectives for children tailoring homework according to need.

Parents and children are looking for reassurances from school about the purpose of homework tasks and by having a conversation with their child's teacher they can hopefully find a happy medium when it comes to completing work. As one parent put it: "You know where the extra push should be."

Also parents said they liked to have written instructions from teachers where possible to avoid potential confusion over verbal messages!

In addition the members of the group said they were keen to attend a Maths Workshop to help children completing maths assignments. Parents also said they would like clarification of the weekly maths test homework as this seems to vary according to setting groups eg how many and which questions to answer.

Action: KC to discuss homework in a staff meeting, including maths, to seek clarification of prioritisation and make sure the recently reviewed Homework Policy is on the school website.

KC to speak to the maths co-ordinator to fix a date for the Maths Workshop(s) to take place.

2. Reading Workshops

There have been a number of Reading Workshops in school to help parents understand the importance of reciprocal reading with their children and this remains a top whole school priority in terms of our School Development Plan.

Parents agreed this was useful to find out what level of book their child should be reading, that they should have two books on the go at one time (one easier and one more challenging) and there should be a regular discussion of new vocabulary.

3. School Farmers Market Spring/summer 2017

Parents were asked for their ideas relating to plans for our first school farmers market. Saffron Acres, Clarendon Park online, cake stalls and natural herbal remedies were mentioned.

Action: KC to contact various local producers to see if they would be willing to attend an event.

4. **Twitter** – Parents have praised the use of social media especially Twitter in Y3 and they would like to see this extending further across all year groups as they feel it is a great way of keeping in daily touch with what is happening in school and provides useful prompts for discussions with children.

Action: KC to discuss at a staff meeting. Some teachers are waiting for iPads to facilitate use of social media.

5. Items for the next Parents' Forum meeting : School website

Dates and times of the next Meetings:

Tuesday 17th January 2017, 3-40- 4.30pm

Wednesday 1st March 5.45- 6.30pm (time TBC)

Tuesday 2nd May 2017, 9.30 – 1020am

Please make a note of the dates in your diary. We would be very happy to see you there.

Alternatively if there is something you would like to see on the agenda please email k.cooper@overdale-jun.leicester.sch.uk