

# Overdale Schools' Parent Forum Minutes of Meeting - Tuesday 21<sup>th</sup> November 2017, 9.15-10.30am.

Present: Tracey Mawby, Mel Elliott, Sheetal Anthony, Helen Ford, Andleeb Khan, Maureen Chambers –Bromwell, Jennifer Till, Loretta Peto, Teacher Karen Cooper, TA Diane Conchie, Helen Ashley, Infant headteacher Karen Stuart

**Agenda items: Homework, Anti-Bullying policy, Dining Hall improvements, AOB**

## **1. Roast Dinner Day**

The feedback from parents about this event was mostly positive, although it was acknowledged that next time we should perhaps hold the event over two days as it has become very popular and this would improve organisation and reduce the waiting time for children to be served.

**Action:** KC to organise over two or more days next time in collaboration with the infant school.

## **2. 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 varying experiences, but in particular there was concern over the maths basic skills test homework. It was felt children should not be tested on areas they had not previously learned in school and parents did not always feel equipped to teach unfamiliar concepts or methods.

In addition parents would like to see consistency across year groups, including marking, and understand the reasons behind the homework set. Some children are asked to stay in at lunchtime to complete homework which it was felt could have a negative effect. The bingo style homework is liked by some, but it was felt that was not always linked to current classroom learning and there was some confusion over what should be completed.

Parents said spellings are not always taken home but praised the use of Twitter reminders for weekly spellings. It was suggested these could also be put on the school website.

Generally, parents and children are looking for some reassurances about the purpose of homework tasks and what should be completed.

**Action:** KC to raise these matters at a staff meeting, ask for further guidance on homework (including prioritisation) and request greater consistency across the school.

## **3. Anti-Bullying Policy**

One parent reported their child had taken on board the Anti-Bullying message last week and wanted to become a 'peace keeper'. Others talked about Ambassadors and the Buddy system and asked for children to be given additional reminders about buddies after the initial return to school to ensure younger children feel supported.

We would like to review the Anti-Bullying policy, which can be found on the website under **Policies** within the **Parent section**, so please take a look and bring any comments or ideas to the next Parent Forum meeting. Parents were told the **STOP** box has been removed for now due to misuse, and that children are being encouraged to "tell" face to face or by writing down information and passing to an adult.

**Action:** Parents to look at the policy and bring suggestions to the next meeting or email them to [k.cooper@overdale-jun.leicester.sch.uk](mailto:k.cooper@overdale-jun.leicester.sch.uk)

#### **4. Dining hall improvements**

Infant Headteacher Mrs Stuart spoke to parents about the planned improvements to take down the wall between the junior and infant dining halls at Xmas and make it into one large room for both schools. This is because the schools are growing and need to accommodate more children. It will involve a full remodelling and we hope it will lead to a more streamlined and efficient lunchtime. At present some of the younger infant children have to eat lunch in the Junior dining hall due to lack of space. There will be baffle boards to reduce noise levels and we expect to retain two serving hatches. We hope to add electricity points for playing suitable music during lunchtimes. We hope there will be some re-decoration.

**Action:** Parents asked for their ideas relating to the dining hall improvements.

#### **5. October Half Term dates for 2018-19 and beyond**

The dates for the City and County October half term 2018-19 do not fall in line with each other and as such there is concern about families who have children in city and county schools having different half term holidays. Please see the school website for details, and relevant petitions that are circulating.

**Action:** Information to be put on next newsletter and flagged up on school website.

#### **6. AOB – Parking**

Parents said inconsiderate parking appears to be getting worse at both schools. Bad parking is being reported to the local community policing unit. This will be discussed at a future meeting.

**Action:** KC add this to the next agenda and find out what measures are currently taking place.

#### **7. Items for the next Parents' Forum meeting :** Homework, Anti-bullying policy review, holiday dates, parking issues.

#### **Diary dates and times of the next Meetings:**

**Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018, 3-40- 4.320pm, Junior school hut**

**Tuesday & Wednesday 27 & 28 February 2018 (Parents Eve), 3.40- 530pm, healthy Hut**

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2018, 9.15 – 1020am, Overdale Infant School hall, Y2/3 transition**

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2018 – outside Overdale dining hall, 3.40-4.20pm**

Alternatively if there is something you would like to see on the agenda please email

[k.cooper@overdale-jun.leicester.sch.uk](mailto:k.cooper@overdale-jun.leicester.sch.uk)