

Overdale Schools' Parent Forum Minutes of Meeting - Tuesday 22nd January 2018 3.40-4.20pm.

Present: Andleeb Khan, Helen Ashley, teacher Karen Cooper (KC).

Apologies: Infant headteacher Karen Stuart, Helen Ford, Vicky Ball

Agenda items: Homework , Anti-Bullying policy, Dining Hall improvements, Parking, School Holiday Dates, School Development Plan, AOB

1. Homework

KC said a Homework Working Party, comprising of teachers from each year group and the senior leadership team, has been set up to review the Homework Policy. The first meeting is on Tuesday 30th January. The group will look at the type and amount of homework to be completed, offer consistency across year groups and reassurances for parents and children about school expectations.

One parent commented that her child did reading and times tables' homework, but other topics could be a 'battle'. While another parent said her children preferred the Bingo style homework which was 'fun'. She also said younger children need more support to complete tasks. The parents also asked for clarification about Maths skills worksheets and asked if children were queried about their views. The School Council will ask for feedback on homework.

For your information there is lots of up to date information on the school website regarding how to help children with homework including videos of maths calculation methods. Termly homework booklets are also available to download and some information about spellings.

Action: Mrs Hart will report back to the Parents Forum from the Homework Working Party in due course.

2. Anti-Bullying Policy

Teachers, parents and children have reviewed the Anti-Bullying Policy and this is now due to go before the Governing Body for ratification. Key changes are the STOP box has been removed and children are encouraged to "tell" face to face or by writing down information and passing to an adult. In addition the Friends Against Bullying (FAB) team now offers more help and support to children. They have re-launched the Friendship Stop and hold monthly workshops where children can go to meet new friends or discuss friendship issues.

The policy will also be linked to the E-safety Policy and Teaching and Learning Policy.

Action: The updated policy will be published on the school website when it has been agreed by Governors.

3. October Half Term dates for 2018-19 and beyond

As some parents may be aware there is a clash with the October Half Term holidays for the City and County schools this year. It is highly unlikely this will change. Overdale half term is Monday 22- Friday 26 October 2018. The reason the anomaly arose is because City holiday consultations take place every 3 years and the County every 4 years. Consultation about future holiday dates is due to take place on both the City and County Council websites (starting before the end of January) and parents are urged to make their views known. Links to the consultation will be put on the school website when they become available.

Action: Information to be put on the school website and newsletters.

4. Dining hall improvements

The joint Overdale schools dining hall is now in use and there has been a fairly smooth transition with new Y4 Bistro Buddies helping dining supervisors at lunchtime. Noise reducing baffle boards will be put over the ceiling during the half term holiday. There is extra seating capacity in the dining hall. Some children said they enjoyed being able to sit with their younger infant siblings during lunchtime.

Action: We plan to invite Parents in to another Roast Dinner Day in the summer term.

5. Parking & safer routes to school

Due to complaints about parking around school a number of measures have been taken. New knee high rails have been placed on Ashclose Avenue to prevent parking on the verges. There has been more support from the local police to identify and reduce dangerous parking eg on the zig-zag area outside school.

KC also reported a Park and Stride investigation involving school children is taking place to look into the possibility of setting up safer routes to school walking from the Knighton Park car park in the future. The investigation walk planned for Wednesday 24th January was postponed due to inclement weather conditions. Hopefully it will be re-organised.

Action: KC report back on the results of the Park and Stride investigation.

6. School Development Plan

Parents took a brief look at the school development plan. Copy attached to minutes of meeting. We can discuss this at future meeting if this is requested.

Items for the next Parents' Forum meeting : Would parents like to set up a Wats App parent forum group in future? If there is something you would like to see on the agenda please email k.cooper@overdale-jun.leicester.sch.uk

Diary dates and times of the next Meetings:

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

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

Tuesday 12th June 2018 – Picnic outside Overdale dining hall, 3.40-4.20pm