

## **PARENTS FORUM MINUTES**

**October 4th 2017**

**Attendees:** Victoria Lock, Anna Morris, Clare Fenwick, Alistair Young, Joanna Ledger, Pete Luetchford, Fiona Blenkin, Abi Steel, Pru Risely, Mel Armstrong, Justin Armstrong

**Apologies:** Alice Bell, Wendy Cook, Vic Haymes, Karen Rosevear, Chris Booker, Zoe Wilkinson, Theresa Mellor

**AGENDA:** Homework  
Music Lesson Timings  
Lead Parent Partnership Award  
AOB

### **HOMEWORK**

Miss Lock confirms homework will continue in the current format for reading and spelling. However, after gaining feedback from parents, teachers and often the children it has been agreed to abandon the Schofield and Sims maths books. This is due to mixed reactions. Parents and children have described them as 'demoralising' and 'challenging', whereas teachers have found them time consuming to mark. Therefore, Miss Lock has facilitated research into a new way to take maths homework and has looked at two online tools both with excellent reviews. 'Mathletics' and 'My Maths' were both looked at, and it was decided that 'My Maths' would be used for future maths homework. Reasons for this were that it was the cheaper option of the two, it is used in secondary schools so will help with transitions and it will be tailored to the lessons the children have in class. Homework is immediately marked automatically with a Red, Amber, Green smiley face to provide children with instant results. Results will be shared with the school so that teachers can assess progress. Miss Lock will be sending a letter home to parents on Friday 6th October introducing My Maths. This will also check parent access to computers / iPads etc at home to ensure it can be used by everyone.

Slightly off agenda, Miss Lock briefed upon target setting. She aims to get feedback to parents half termly using the assessment tracking tool, setting out individual work plans for the children. Miss Lock confirmed she is always open to review this moving forward.

### **MUSIC LESSON TIMINGS**

There has been some concern from parents with children partaking in music lessons that the timings of the lessons would be interfering with important literacy or maths lessons in the mornings. Miss Lock is passionate about children learning music and

wants to reassure parents that she has put a new rotational timetable in place so that the music lessons do not clash with the same lessons each week. These lessons will still take place mornings and afternoons but by rotating the schedule, the children will not repeatedly miss the same lesson each week. She is also planning on upskilling the children so they have an understanding that it is also their responsibility to catch up on their lesson by looking at boards on the walls etc and talking with their peers / teachers.

## **LEAD PARENT PARTNERSHIP AWARD**

Miss Lock is looking to develop a partnership between the school and parents by gaining an accreditation over the next 12-15 months. Miss Lock has had previous experience of leading this award in her previous schools. It is largely school-led, with an emphasis on improving communication with parents. However this will need parents support and Miss Lock is seeking to gain support from members of the parents forum. Parent forum members agreed to provide this support. She aims to create an action plan firstly within school using thoughts from teachers and the children and then bring the action plan to the parents forum meeting for the next steps. Miss Lock will email members of the parents forum with detailed information before the next meeting.

## **A.O.B**

Some members of the parents forum raised the query with regard to the current PTCA programme. Miss Lock is very keen to raise the profile of the PTCA and has agreed to 3 future events. She is keen to hold a PTCA meeting / rally / evening event with the aim to encourage more parents to become involved. This could look like a family film night / adult quiz night. At present the members of the PTCA are a core group of parents and it needs fresh blood to keep it running. One member raised the question of whether funds raised on donations days could be used for the PTCA , however Miss Lock wanted to still give children a choice as to which charity they would like to support. By doing this it raises awareness in the children of diversity and inequalities in the community far and wide.

A member discussed whether school and preschool could avoid events clashing e.g. carol singing in the park at the same time as the school Christmas play. Miss Lock confirmed she is making sure this awareness is in place.

The parents forum is still seeking another rep from Foundation. Abi Steel confirms she will act as a rep for Foundation, and Fi Blenkin will join Pete Luetchford for year 6. Karen Rosevear is to step down as a rep for Year 4 however Mel and Justin Armstrong, Clare Fenwick and Fi Blenkin all have children in year 4.

Autograph - school dinners. Miss Lock states there are still parents not booking dinners through parent pay / Autograph. This is causing school (in particular Jo Andrews) an immense amount of work. Members of the parents forum suggested an

alert system would help remind parents and whether Autograph could manage this. It was also suggested a best practice is for parents to book all meals per half term in one session and then manage their own reminder system through their phone. Some members suggested a note on the door at breakfast club or after school club to remind those parents that don't drop their children into class in the morning or pick up as they are more likely to miss notes on classroom doors.

Moving forward with future agendas for parent forum meetings, Miss Lock wants to set up a hierarchy for discussing issues at school so that parents can be signposted to who can help them with their issue. Whether this be direct to a specific teacher, a parent forum rep or directly to her. Miss Lock also wants parents to speak up and approach her if there is anything that needs to be raised. Miss Lock or Mrs Morris will be on the school gate every day for any queries parents may have.

Date of next parent forum meeting: Tuesday 28th November 5:30pm- 6:30pm

Future meetings will be in the 4th week of each half term. Pru Risely to conduct a doodle poll to confirm best availability for the dates circa 23rd January, 20th March, 8th May 2018.