

## Parent forum 02/07/2013

Present – Mrs Dawn Lister, Mr Simon Hunter, Mr Steve Noble, Mr Damien Lancaster, parents representing a variety of year groups.

1. Official welcome for all and new members signed code of conduct.
2. Update from Steve Noble – chair of governors.

Steve Noble gave an update on the Ofsted report from January 2013.

There were many strengths found in the report. Leadership and management, teaching and learning and behaviour and safety were all found to be good, a massive improvement on the previous report. The staff and governor partnership, the reputation of the school in the community and the progress made were other areas where improvement has been noted and commented upon. Due to the fact that Ofsted found that progress made by children still required some improvement, the overall grading of the school was deemed 'requires improvement' – the previous grading of satisfactory under the old Ofsted rating.

The staff and governors found the decision to be unfounded, due to the fact that 3 areas received 'good' and only one required improvement and Steve explained the procedure undertaken by school to challenge that decision with Ofsted. School have been supported in that appeal by the local authority and Ofsted have admitted that mistakes were made, although have not changed the overall grading. As a result, school have asked for an early inspection and are expecting for Ofsted to return in the next academic year where they expect to prove that their procedures and policies are fully embedded and that the staff, governors and senior leaders are committed to the improvements put in place.

Steve Noble has been re-elected as chair of governors and Carol Thomas will be staying on at school as school improvement officer as work continues.

Ofsted completed a monitoring visit on 01/07/2013. The visit went well.

### 3. Simon Hunter – Mossley Partnership.

Simon Hunter gave parents an outline of what the Mossley Partnership involves. This had been mentioned on the school newsletter last week and Simon gave more details about it tonight.

Drew Duncan, Headteacher at Mossley Hollins, had contacted Buckton Vale to ask them to join the partnership and Buckton Vale has now signed up for the next two years. As the majority of children from Buckton Vale move on to Mossley Hollins an advantage will be to make the transition between primary and secondary much smoother.

The main aims of the partnership are to:

- Raise standards and consistency across Mossley and Carrbrook primary schools – there will be learning walks and an open door policy to achieve and maintain consistency in Teaching and Learning, assessments and performance management. This will mean that schools throughout the area will support one another.
- Buckton Vale will use the Education Welfare Officer service – attendance and punctuality will be managed.
- Modern Foreign Languages provision will be introduced for all children in years 5 and 6, who will receive French or Spanish lessons once a week with a specialist MFL teacher employed by Mossley Hollins
- Music and PE services will be bought into. The aim is to introduce a brass band and that as many pupils as possible will be able to take advantage of sports tutors and using facilities such as the dance studio at Mossley Hollins
- The partnership also aims to improve the area and the community we live in, not just the schools. Drew Duncan has many ideas and Buckton Vale is now part of this exciting initiative.

The governing body at Buckton Vale has already established links with local secondary schools by inviting the deputy head from Copley and an experienced governor from Mossly Hollins to be part of our governing body. The relationships between schools is therefore already being fostered.

#### **4. Recent Maths workshop.**

Parents were invited to review the Maths workshop that took place after school on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June.

The following points were raised.

##### **What went well...**

- It was a very positive experience for all who attended
- It was informal, hands on and gave clear explanations of teaching methods used
- Children, teachers and parents were able to work together in a relaxed atmosphere
- The informal drop in session was good
- It was useful that it focussed on just one topic (addition) so as to avoid information overload
- It was useful to be able to drop into KS1 and KS2 for parents with children in more than one year group or for parents of children in year 2 about to make that transition.
- It gave parents more confidence to be able to help children at home in the same way they are being taught in school.

##### **Even better if....**

- The letter needed to be clearer. It was not communicated well that children were welcome or that it was a drop in session. Many parents did not attend as it was understood that it was full two hour meeting and they didn't have childcare.
- Follow up information should be made available for parents who couldn't attend – an information booklet or a link on the website explaining what had taken place.
- The timings were discussed. On the whole parents felt that it was positive to have it straight after school as long as it is clear that children could attend too. That way people could pop in straight after school. Some people suggested that it should be on for longer, although this may not be a realistic suggestion from a staffing point of view.
- It was felt that parents required more notice of an event like this so that they could organise work/childcare etc. A time period of at least 2-3 weeks was suggested.
- Some parents felt that it needed to be clearer in school where to go and what was happening. A sign or a greeter in reception would have been helpful.

#### **5. AOB**

- a. **After school clubs:** From September all clubs will finish at the same time of 4:15pm. A letter will also be sent out at the start of the year detailing dates when clubs will run throughout the school year. School has recognised that it is not acceptable to inform parents the week before whether a club will be on or not the following week.

More continuity from September with after school clubs. Some parents also suggested that clubs which rely on the weather could take place indoors instead of being cancelled in the event of bad weather and if necessary they could do something related such as watch a skills DVD etc.

- b. Parent mail to go out every Monday with a brief reminder and update of all clubs and events taking place that week.
- c. **Sports day:** There was a discussion about the communication regarding this year's sports day. This will be resolved
- d. **Newsletters:** School are proposing to e-mail the school newsletter from September and a paper copy will only be obtained if parents want to pick one up from reception. The newsletter will also be on the website as it is currently.

This will cut down on how much paper is used and the problem that some children are not taking them home.

The class newsletters will continue to be brought home on paper as many children like to bring them home and see them as their own.

School will obviously need up to date e-mail addresses for this to be successful.

- e. **Mornings:** Some parents felt that morning procedures are not being followed and parents are not waiting behind the white line. Simon noted this and this can be made clear to parents in welcome meetings.
- f. **Procedures at the end of trips:** Parents voiced concern over the pick-up point at the end of school trips. It was suggested that it is unsafe to pick children up from Buckton Vale Road as there is too much traffic, too many people and the pavement is very narrow. Policy will be that children have to be collected from the main entrance or the playground following a trip. This will be communicated at the welcome evenings at the start of the school year and stressed in the letters detailing trip arrangements. Simon Hunter will look into coaches dropping children at the front gate on Moorgate Road so that children can be taken safely inside or into the playground.

Timings at the end of school trips were also discussed. Some parents felt that timings needed to be more specific and more notice given. It was said that it is difficult to manage when a text message is received on the return journey giving an arrival time and it was suggested that a time should be given in advance and if children arrive back earlier, they should be then kept in school. This was discussed but as yet has not been resolved.

- g. **FoBV:** Fundraising for Robin Wood trip. It was made clear that now that Friends of Buckton Vale run all fundraising centrally, they will pledge the amount that they will contribute to this trip at the start of the school year. This can then be deducted from the total and parents will know in advance how much their final payment will be.  
The current Year 5 will also benefit from support and if no deduction has already been made, this will be rectified as soon as possible.