

Minutes of Parent Forum meeting

21st November 2012

Present

Mr S. Hunter

Mrs D. Lister

Mrs J. Brand

Mrs D. Brown

Mr S. Noble

Parents

- **Introduction and sharing of policy and code of conduct for new members**

New parents present received a copy of the parent forum policy and signed a code of conduct, agreeing to become members of the group and work together in a positive way.

- **Vision from Mr Simon Hunter**

As the newly appointed head teacher, Simon Hunter shared his aims and goals for the school with the parents and staff present. Mr Hunter showed a presentation where he outlined his vision for the school and how he aims to lead to very good and then to outstanding.

In brief he talked about the following points:

- Increasing progress in Maths and English across the school
- Embedding assessment securely across the school – making sure parents and pupils understand levels and the next steps needed to improve
- Focussing on teaching moving from good to outstanding in all lessons
- Ensuring the stability of staff – a stable and settled staff offers minimum disruption to pupils and therefore their learning
- A focus on progress – 2 levels progress by the end of year 5
- Pride in the school – behaviour, uniform, reputation
- Working on improving links with the local community

- **Sharing of parent questionnaire – October 2012**

Parents were asked to spend a few minutes looking at the responses of the recent parent questionnaire and had some time to compare the responses with earlier questionnaires.

The overwhelming feeling from parents and staff present was that the questionnaire indicated that parents were on the whole feeling a lot more positive about school. There has been a definite shift towards the 'agree' and 'strongly agree' columns, with the percentage of parents disagreeing a very small minority.

The hope now is that more focussed questionnaire can be sent out relating specifically to areas where there was a percentage of parents disagreeing.

- **Introduction of the topic – what have we done and what is the impact?**

The main focus of the meeting was to look at what school has done so far to address issues raised and then to think about what still needs to be done or could be developed further.

- **Task 1**

There were two groups of parents and each was given two areas from the Ofsted criteria. Group one looked at safeguarding and parent voice and group two focussed on supporting your child at home and home/school links.

For the first task the groups had to think about what school has done in each of these areas since the initial Ofsted report. This is what was raised:

- **Safeguarding**

Supervision at the end of the day on the playground has improved

Gates are now locked and therefore security is improved

Signing in at reception for assemblies and visitors is now better – visitor stickers are working well

The guidelines on taking photographs and videos at assemblies are now clearer

List 99 and CRB checks are now in place for all adults/parent helpers in school

- **Parent voice**

More questionnaires give parents the opportunity to raise concerns

Friends of Buckton Vale is now in place

Parent forum is now established

Better contact between parents and teachers on the whole – welcome to the year group evenings gave parents a clear idea of how they can contact teachers if necessary

Parents' evenings improved on the whole.

- **Supporting your child at home**

Support with the new behaviour policy has been positive

More learning links on the website and on the class newsletters have been useful in supporting what children do in school

Weekly newsletters have improved communication between school and give parents a clear idea of what children are doing in school

The tickled pink/green for growth on homework is useful in supporting children in the next steps of their learning and makes parents aware of how children can move up to the next level.

- **Home/school links**

Communication via marking policy is good

The website has improved, however it was raised that there is still inconsistency between classes

Reading records are useful but again there is inconsistency between year groups and even within the same class

- **Task 2**

In the second task the parents present had to 'tickle pink' the things that school is doing well from the issues raised above and then think about what needs improving further in these four areas and mark these 'green for growth'.

- **Safeguarding**

It was felt that almost everything raised above had been implemented in a positive way

Green for growth – Parents felt that the playground could be made safer. The tunnel needs fixing and some of the damaged things need replacing/repairing in order to create a safer environment.

Childminders also felt that staff could work harder to ensure that the correct adult is collecting children at the end of the day. Do all staff know who is collecting which child every day?

- **Parent voice**

Again it was felt that many of the above issues are very positive.

Tickled pink – more positive responses on the questionnaires, welcome to the year group evenings were a great idea although peoples' experiences varied.

Green for growth – Parent forum works well but there was a discussion about the dwindling numbers and how we can encourage more people to get involved.

Advertise the suggestion box more widely as some parents knew about it and some didn't.

- **Supporting your child at home**

Tickled pink – learning links on the class newsletters and on the website, level descriptors on the website are useful so that parents can see the next steps. However, could it be advertised more widely that NC levels are on the website? Anything new on the website needs to be communicated more clearly to parents.

Green for growth – some parents wanted clearer explanations on some homeworks.

- **Home/school links**

Tickled pink – class newsletters are excellent, text reminders are useful, homework marking policy has had a positive effect.

Green for growth – There was some inconsistency between year groups and classes, in particular in the reading records. Parents felt that every child should get at least one comment per week in their reading record as an acknowledgement that an adult has read with them in school and that parents' comments are being read.

When the new behaviour policy started it was felt that it could have been communicated better to parents and is not always being followed correctly – when a child is put on yellow, the policy states that parents should receive a phone call and this is not always happening.