

Minutes of Parent Forum meeting

27th June 2012

Present

Mrs D. Lister

Mrs J. Brand

Mr P. Williams

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.

- **Update from the last parent forum**

Parents received feedback on the changes made since the last parent forum meeting.

These included:

- Class pages being updated more regularly on the website
- Senior members of staff (Simon Hunter, Simon Wright, Dawn Lister) present on the playground before school
- The office running more smoothly, being staffed by two members of staff and dealing with concerns/requests more efficiently
- The introduction of the sticker system for signing in for assemblies, making that procedure more effective.
- Class newsletters being available to read on the website

- **Sharing of parent questionnaire from April 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 the questionnaire completed earlier in the year.

The main feeling from parents present was that the questionnaire indicated that parents were on the whole feeling more positive about school although there was some disappointment that more people had not returned the questionnaire.

- **Introduction of the topic**

The main focus of the meeting was about how school can support parents, both in their own learning and to help them support their children's learning in school. Parents were introduced to the LPPA – Leading Parent Partnership Award and what school is doing in order to achieve this award.

- **Tasks**

1. Parents then worked in groups alongside the staff on the theme of the evening. In the first task parents were asked to brainstorm what school already does to help support our children, to help us as learners and to support joint learning activities.

The following ideas came up about what school already has in place:

- Phonic workshops in reception – help parents to support their children's learning
- Reading Roadmap in class 3/4B - helps parents to support their children's learning
- Website learning links signpost good websites to support children in their learning
- The termly and weekly newsletters help parents to support their children, in knowing topics and curriculum areas that will be focussed on in school.
- VIP days help parents to support their children
- School regularly points out when things are happening in the local community which provide joint learning opportunities for parents and carers, for example when the Olympic flame passed through Ashton.
- Some parents expressed that they can't think of a time when school has offered them any support either to further their own learning or to support their child's learning.
- Some parents expressed that they would like more workshops.

2. In the second task parents and staff then brainstormed what school could offer to further support learning.

The following briefly describes the findings:

To help us to support our children

- More phonics/numeracy workshops
- More communication about the methods used in school to teach certain things, so that parents can better support children with their homework
- More signposts to websites to help them
- Refresher workshops on the methods used to teach aspects of numeracy, such as long division, fractions etc.

To help us as learners

- Workshops in the ICT suite to support parents' knowledge of applications such as Powerpoint, Word and Excel.
- Workshops/information on aspects of parenting such as sex education, e-safety, healthy eating, first aid.

- Use of the school for activities such as aerobics, zumba, fitness classes

Joint learning opportunities

- Organisation of more enrichment/social activities, such as family walks, picnics, sports clubs, craft workshops (friends of Buckton Vale to be involved in this)
- Dads and kids time
- Community events – more links between school and what is happening in the community such as at the institute, at local churches and community groups.

3. In the third task, parents and staff tried to think of how to make the suggested activities possible and also tried to think of ways to reach the parents who currently do not get involved in activities.

Ideas such as offering child care facilities in school, offering the same thing at different times of the day and posting video links on the website were all suggested as ways to try to reach a wider proportion of parents.

In order to make the learning opportunities above possible, parents thought of ideas such as:

- Sending home leaflets/booklets
- Workshops in school
- More signposts to websites or courses in the community
- Getting outside agencies in to help inform parents eg. School nurses, kitchen staff, countryside warden
- Recipe of the week in the school newsletter
- Links made available to information about what is happening in the community.