

Beaford Community Primary and Nursery School

Minutes of the Parent Forum Meeting

1st May 2013 - 9.00 am

Present : Annette Yates, Jane Moore, Jasmine Randall, Amber Bowen

1. Questionnaire for Parents/Carers

Parent questionnaires have been very helpful in the past with up to 35 out of 50 families responding. Initially there will be an electronic version on the website with a paper copy available in school although if the response is not high then a paper copy may be sent out with the newsletter. A draft of the next questionnaire was produced and discussed.

(a) New joiners

When pupils/parents join the school mid-term or not having come through nursery/reception there are a lot of the basic routines that they will not know and it can sometimes be daunting to have to ask questions all the time. An information sheet will be produced setting out details of the day to day basics including things such as how to pay for school meals, curriculum overview, after school activities, reading structures, bus routine, contact names and numbers, uniform, pe kit, newsletter/website, parking.

(b) Homework

Some parents don't like homework at all and others feel that it needs to be more structured. The school hopes that it has the issue of homework about right but the questionnaire will be a useful tool to check the feelings of parents. There is possibly some confusion for parents of KS1 children as to what is expected even though homework for KS1 is entirely voluntary. This may be something which needs to be clearly communicated to KS1 parents. KS2 children are given homework books. Children in years 3 and 4 are expected to do homework and in years 5 and 6 it is an essential move towards the independent study they will be doing at secondary school. Online learning systems were discussed however these are expensive and do not always relate well to what is being taught at that time by the class teacher. The school provides information to parents about websites that can add to children's learning and have appropriate tasks and activities for children to do.

There are important curriculum changes in 2014 and these will be discussed at the next meeting.

(c) Online payments/communications

From September 2013 the school is looking to move to an electronic system for all payments and communications to include school dinners, trips, nursery, permission slips, school reports. The storage of paperwork is an ever-growing problem as all papers have to be kept for many, many years. Many other schools operate electronically and it will hopefully make life easier for everyone. For those who do not have internet access or payment facilities the old paper system will still be in place.

2. E-safety Training

E-safety trainers will be coming into school to do a session with the pupils and a 2 hour workshop for parents/carers will also be available. This would probably be best at 3.30 if an afterschool club could run at the same time - this may make it easier for parents to come along. 2 hours may be a little long and AY will check whether this could be shortened.

3. KS2 Reading Workshop

Reading workshops have been very helpful in the past but are usually aimed at KS1. Once their child has reached KS2 it can sometimes be difficult for parents to know how best to support their child's reading as many older children are unwilling to sit and read out loud to their parents. A KS2 reading workshop would show how Beaford teaches KS2 reading and how parents can best support the reading at home. Book lists/recommended reading for boys and girls will be produced.

4. Social Networking/Internet & pupil photos

It was raised by a member of the forum that some parents have been putting class pictures of their children wearing Beaford uniform online through facebook. This should under no circumstances be happening. At present the school does not operate a "no camera" policy at their events but it should be made clear to parents that any pictures of pupils in uniform or at Beaford events are for personal use only and are not to be put onto social media sites. This will be communicated to parents before the Sports Day event.

Meeting Ended : 10.30 am

Date of Next Meeting : 26th June 2013 @ 9 am

Agenda for Next Meeting

- (1) Responses to Parent Questionnaires
- (2) Curriculum changes 2014
- (3) Helen's report re : online payments