

Home Farm Primary School – Parent Forum meeting - minutes

Friday 20th October 2017

Present: Mr Potter; Mrs Khan; Mrs King; Mrs Morton; Mr Travi; Mrs Hayton; Mrs Wright; Mrs Mansfield; Mrs Berry; Mrs Reeve; Mrs Turvil; Mrs Nesbitt; Mrs Carlin

Update on proposed expansion and build

1. Mr Potter welcomed parents and carers to the meeting. He provided an update on the proposed expansion of Home Farm and on the planned building project. The play equipment was being relocated and an archaeological dig would be taking place over half-term. Parents asked whether the new play equipment would be fenced off, and Mr Potter confirmed that it wouldn't. A new rubber safety surface would be put down around the equipment. The work included the removal of some trees from the site, but also involved the planting of 16 new trees in their place.

End of term reports

2. Mr Potter provided an overview of the format of the end of term reports which would be provided to children in Years 1 to 6 at the end of the Autumn term. The reports would provide an overview of whether children were working below, at or above the age-related expectations in all subjects, together with information about punctuality and effort.
3. There would be some supporting material which provided more information about each of the curriculum objectives. These would either be shown as green (meaning secure); amber (meaning that the child had tried the objective but needed more work on it); red (meaning that the child had not yet achieved the objective); or blue (meaning that the child was working at greater depth on this objective). A blue would be rare at this point in the year.
4. Parents asked whether parents would already be aware of any red indicators before the reports were received. Mr Potter explained that this might not be the case – a red at this point in the year was not any cause for concern at all, as the full year would be needed to cover all curriculum objectives.
5. A written report was not provided to Class R children at the end each term, but staff continued to report to parents through Tapestry on an ongoing basis.

Fundraising

6. Mr Potter confirmed that the school was planning to fund raise for Children in Need on Friday 17th November, and would be collecting old pound coins. Further details would be provided.

Issues raised by parents

7. Parents asked whether the sunshine shelter would be moved as part of the build project. Mr Potter confirmed that it would be relocated. He would discuss this further with HFSA representatives.
8. Parents asked whether it would be possible for Breakfast Club to start 15 minutes earlier, even if this meant that the school would need to charge more for the sessions. Mr Potter noted that there would be some complexities in doing this, but the school would consult further on this. Parents asked whether the school would look again at starting an after-school club. Mr Potter noted that this may be looked at again in the future, but space was an issue at the moment.

9. Parents asked whether external providers running clubs provided feedback to staff about any behaviour issues during club sessions. Mr Potter confirmed that this was the case, but he would remind providers about this. He noted that if parents had any concerns about issues arising during club sessions, they should raise them with the school.
10. Parents asked whether green cards were given for homework, and discussed some homework issues more generally. It was noted that there were different views amongst parents about the amount of homework that was appropriate. The Parent Forum discussed how to practise spellings at home (the 'look, say, cover, write, check' method) and the importance of using words in context rather than learning them by rote. The 'three chilli' challenge was discussed, and Mr Potter explained that children could use this, if they wished to, as an extension task. Some parents felt that it would be beneficial to set out the expectations around homework, particularly when children were moving from Reception to Year 1, and Mr Potter would take this forward.
11. Parents asked whether lunchtime homework club was still running and whether the children knew that they could go to homework club. Mr Potter confirmed that it was, and that he would monitor how this was working in practise.
12. Parents asked about green cards, whether these were being given out in all classes, and how long it might take children to reach the bronze, silver etc markers. Mr Potter explained that on average, children would achieve around 30 green cards (the gold certificate) over the course of the school year – so he might expect them to be achieving around one green card a week. Green cards were given for effort in classwork.
13. Parents noted that Mrs Hollingsworth was leaving the school at the end of the half-term and asked how her post was being filled. Mr Potter confirmed that he was recruiting two Learning Support Assistants and that Mrs Arszynska and Mrs Khan would be joining the school staff after half-term.
14. Parents raised issues relating to parking, drop-off, and cars speeding outside of the school. The school continued to monitor issues closely, but Mr Potter underlined the fact that parents with concerns should feel free to report them to the police.

Date of next meeting

15. The next meeting would take place on Friday 24th November at 2:15pm. The school would send a reminder to parents nearer the time.