

BWJS Parent Forum meeting

Friday 14th October 2016

In attendance:

Mrs Daniels (DHT)

Year group	Number of parents in attendance
3	5
4	4
5	0
6	1

Agenda: How can we further promote parental involvement in school life?

1. Mrs Daniels shared ways in which the school already encourages parents to participate in school life:
 - Weekly reading in year groups
 - School trips
 - Open afternoons/evening (x3 per year)
 - Y6 parent tours (x6 per half term)
 - SPAG and Maths workshops
 - Information evenings (residential, SATs)
 - Productions (Christmas, Y6, Y3)
 - Friday celebration assemblies
 - Nuffield theatre trip (Christmas)
 - Book Fairs (x2 per year)
 - Sports Days (Summer term)
 - Swimming galas (1 per year group – summer term)
 - Young Citizens Award Ceremony (Y6 – summer term)
 - Listen 2 Me concerts (Y4 - x3 per year)
 - FoBs events (summer BBQ, Christmas Fair)
2. Open forum to discuss improvement of current events and to share additional ideas for how the school could encourage parental involvement. The main discussion focussed on **ideas for improving communication**, so parents are aware of the events that are currently running, **ideas for improving current events** and **ideas for additional ways to encourage parental involvement**.

IDEAS FOR IMPROVING COMMUNICATION

- Parents can find it difficult to keep up with everything that is going on – a year's worth of dates (as far as possible) at the start of the year would be appreciated. The Google calendar is good but no search function so not totally user-friendly
- Parentmail is successful as a means of communication . Could clubs forms be attached to this for Y2 parents before summer holidays?
- Transition information for year 2 parents could be sent in one envelope rather than at several different times
- Not all y3 parents aware that end of school day is good time to talk to class teacher when outside – advertise this more widely

- Teachers happy for emails to be sent via school email address if unable to speak in person
- Make better use of FoBs notice board to advertise up-coming events
- Not all parents aware of Facebook page and blog – advertise more widely
- Make expectations of photos on social media clear to all parents

IDEAS TO IMPROVE CURRENT EVENTS

- Open afternoons being longer and later would be appreciated
- Teachers being present at all open evenings is not necessary – parents would just like a chance to see the books more regularly
- Parents’ evenings – good to see books before/after appointments. This could include spelling books and lack of feedback regarding scores
- Parents who need to take time off would appreciate the school ‘blocking’ events to reduce amount of time being taken off (i.e. assembly and open afternoon on same day)

ADDITIONAL IDEAS

- School could invite parents in for the hook and/or outcome of topics. This could be run as an enterprise event with parents attending a gallery of work and buying their child’s work for a small fee.
- Parents would be willing to help with art/DT projects – such as the FoBs Christmas card designing
- Help with setting up events such as sports days – parents happy to arrive half an hour earlier to set up
- A ‘careers fair’ for Y6 pupils which would involve inviting parents in to talk about their jobs. This could be arranged so that pupils selected which jobs they were most interested in so that parents would only have to present to 5 or 6 pupils at once
- Mums/Grandmas and Dads/Granddads craft afternoons (which are always very popular at BWIS) – could change the theme to be inclusive of all family members. This could run after school
- Class parent reps – this would alleviate the number of questions directed at the office about the same thing. School could set up email addresses (with automatic response set up) for parents in each class to send questions and/or suggestions. Mrs Daniels happy to be point of contact for each rep

Many thanks to all the parents who attended the first Parent Forum! It was an extremely useful discussion and we will begin work on some of your ideas immediately.

Please look out for the date and agenda for the next meeting.