

Minutes – Parent forum
Friday 23rd February 9.00am

Attendees: Emma Hardy, Anne Boden, Marie Hine, Sue Tattersall, Melanie Hanvey, Susan Curtis

Katie Bower, Will Hodge, Emma Kakoushis

Apologies: Natalie Clapp, Natalie Taylor-Bannister, Loren Issac

Action

1. Overview and objectives

Katie Bower went through the overview and objectives of the Parent Forum. See attached ppt slides.

2. Cycling Proficiency

The school would like to reintroduce cycling proficiency. Traditionally the course is run at the end of Year 6, it was suggested that it might be more useful to run the course at the end of Year 4 or in Year 5. Katie Bower will investigate. KB

3. Homework

Parents are pleased that the school has issued 'expectations' for home learning as it means children are aware there is work that can be completed at home. A concern was raised that a lot of home learning is screen-based and parents try to limit screen time.

Parents would like the home learning expectations to reflect what the children are studying in class, particularly in areas such as maths. WH suggested a Parentmail could be sent out every half term to set out what topics are being covered. WH suggested that children could be asked to produce a piece of work at home or arrange a visit to a museum/place of interest as an introduction to an upcoming topic, such a poster. Parents liked the idea of the half-termly parentmail introducing topics/themes and requested that the school make clear where to find resources/links and ideas for discussion and research.

Parents do not know what their children are doing on Mathletics and a concern was raised that the children might choose the easiest option.

WH advised that the class teacher is able set tasks, which then does not allow the children to deviate. WH will feedback to staff that parents would prefer that class teachers set tasks, but asked parents to be mindful of teachers workloads. Parents pointed out that children are aware they can build points by getting one or two questions wrong on purpose and then repeating the exercise. WH

Reading – some parents were disappointed that we had ended the morning reading WH responded that it was felt the benefit did not outweigh the cost of the interruption to morning lessons and that although take-up in year 3 was good, the amount of parents coming in dwindled throughout the the years. Parents suggested the end of the day might be better.

The group recommended an author that they think has been a success at Netley Marsh Infants – Nicky Dee – an author and illustrator whose books are about

dinosaurs. KB responded that we have an Arts week coming up and it might be appropriate for that week. She will pass the information to the Arts Coordinator.

KB

4. School Reports

The group were given an example of the new format of school report. WH said that the school felt the previous reports were overloaded with information and the numbers and statements could actually seem overcomplicated.

Parent
Forum
Group

The feedback for the new style was much better, more personal. Dropping the numbers was approved of as children became competitive with their peers.

Parents like receiving reports in the middle of the school year, rather than at the end as is common in some schools when its felt it is too late to respond to any suggestions for improvement.

The item will remain open until after reports are given out for final feedback.

5. Residential Trips

The school have been looking at our current residential trips, the affordability for parents of 3 residential trips (currently years 3, 5 & 6) and whether it is still appropriate for a residential trip in Year 3. KB explained that year on year more Year 3 children have not stayed away from home (except at perhaps at grandparents) and are more anxious about the trip and upset when away. Also, that they are new to the school and have not had time to establish routines or for the staff to know children well enough. A suggestion is that residential trips are changed to Year 4 and Year 6. One parent liked the Year 3 trip as she feels children start to make friends with children from other infant schools as prior to the trip they stay with the friends they came up with from their infant school. Other members of the group would prefer the idea of trips in Years 4 & 6. WH suggested that the Year 6 trip venue could be changed or that the visit made longer to take advantage of the current venue's facilities.

KB suggested we give more advance warning of residential trips and set up a payment plan on scopay.

Next Meeting - TBC