

# BWJS Parent Forum meeting

## Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2018

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**In attendance:** Mrs Daniels (DHT)

13 parents:

Year group	Parents representing year group
3	9
4	1
5	3
6	2

**Agenda:** How can we further improve and promote a love of reading within school and at home?

### **DISCUSSION POINTS:**

- Mrs Daniels explained the rationale behind the school's decision to move away from reading logs and to the Reading Pentathlon – to motivate pupils who do not currently read widely and to create opportunities for pupils to recommend new books and authors in library time in school
- Mrs Daniels has already received feedback from all classes about the Reading Pentathlon (see separate document with the results of this feedback) and has also received some feedback from parents about the scheme
- She explained that the school has some concerns about how the scheme has been received and that it needs to make some changes in order for it to be fit for purpose
- Parents at the meeting expressed some concerns over the Reading Pentathlon:
  - i. Some pupils are already avid readers and feel that the Pentathlon tasks are additional homework – this puts them off reading for fear of having to do a task
  - ii. Some pupils are reluctant readers but are not motivated by the tasks (however they would be motivated by team merits)
  - iii. The booklets contain a lot of tasks and some pupils are under the impression that they need to complete all the tasks this academic year
  - iv. The booklet is the same for all year groups – year 3 pupils are put off by the more challenging tasks
  - v. Some parents were not aware of arrangements in school for storing and sharing the tasks that have been completed
  - vi. Pupils could be choosing shorter and less challenging texts in order to complete the tasks quickly and receive certificates
  - vii. There is no space for pupils to log details of the books/texts they have read if they haven't completed a task

As a result of this feedback, the school has made some revisions to the Reading Pentathlon scheme. In order to avoid further mis-communication, these messages will be shared with all pupils and staff members at the same time (to avoid different messages being sent home) and will be shared with parents in the form of clear expectations and detailed information about how the system will work and how pupils will be rewarded.

**The school's position needs to be made clear to pupils and parents: the purpose of the Reading Pentathlon is to encourage and celebrate reading**

School Actions:

- Assembly to be delivered to all pupils and staff to relay key messages:
  - i. There is an expectation that all pupils will read regularly (ideally every day but at least several times a week) at home
  - ii. There is no expectation that pupils will complete tasks from the reading booklet
  - iii. If pupils choose to complete tasks, the school will reward them with a certificate for every 5 tasks completed
  - iv. The school will provide the pupils with a choice of paper which can be taken home to complete tasks
  - v. Each pupil has their own folder in their classroom, where reading Pentathlon tasks should be kept
  - vi. Teachers will expect pupils to be able to participate in class discussions about books and authors they have read – this might be through sharing a task from the booklet or it might be making verbal recommendations without the completion of a task
  - vii. If teachers are concerned that a pupil is not reading regularly at home, they will speak to the child and encourage them to try new authors – they will help them to find a text in the school library that engages them
  - viii. If teachers are still concerned that a child is not reading regularly after this initial intervention, they will contact parents/carers to seek their views and discuss suitable actions (this might include nomination for being part of the Reading Buddy scheme)
  - ix. Pupils should not be completing more than one task a week from the booklet
- Addition of a page in the Reading Pentathlon booklet for pupils to record books/texts they have read regardless of whether they complete a task or not
- Teachers to reward pupils with team merits for completing reading and making additions to their log of books read
- Addition to school website – an area for parents to download templates to complete tasks in booklet
- Consider changing booklets for next academic year: lower/upper school booklets to include fewer activities but pitched at narrower age group, large A4 paper booklets to include fewer tasks but a page per task to allow pupils to complete them within the booklets
- Review the Reading Pentathlon again at the end of Autumn term with pupils and parents

## **AOB**

- Discussion regarding other ways to encourage reluctant readers – the group agreed that opportunities in school library time to share book and author recommendations will be effective
- We also discussed the use of audio books and reading in a range of contexts such as from signs around the local environment and genres to include comics and magazines
- Mrs Daniels explained the addition of reading buddies will be used to support and encourage reluctant readers. Year 6 pupils have been identified and will be paired with reluctant readers from the other year groups. Time will be given in school for the pairs to meet, read to each other, explore the library and share book and author recommendations

***Many thanks to all the parents who attended the Parent Forum! It was an extremely useful discussion and has had a direct impact on the school's practice and procedures.***

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

***Mrs K Daniels***