



Parent Forum meeting – Monday 10th December

Parent Representatives: A.Rawlings (R), T.Mulbauer (Y.1), K.Parker (Y.2), L.Gardiner (Y.3),
A.Drummond (Y.4/5), S.Keeble (Y.5/6), M. Walls (Y.3 & Y.4/5)

School Representatives: R Dedicoat (Headteacher), L Southgate (School Administrator)

Minutes

Mr Dedicoat thanked everyone for attending the meeting and hoped it would be a positive and useful experience for them. The intention of the forum was to listen to parents views to make Shotley Primary a better school.

He was aware of Whats app groups and asked parents to use this as a positive tool for communication.

He explained that it was the intention of the school to set up a local governors board in the coming weeks which would include at least 2 parent governors. He outlined the process for appointing governors, i.e application, interview process.

Rolling start

Overall there had been positive feedback from parents regarding the rolling start in the mornings. There were a few concerns from Reception parents that the younger children were struggling a little with the interaction with older children all going in at the same time and that sometimes they can find this intimidating going into school.

Action :Mr Dedicoat agreed to see what adjustments could be made.

Communication

Messages not being passed on

General concerns that parent messages to teachers were not being passed on at the start of the day. Mr Dedicoat reassured the parent representatives that the school do their best to pass on messages in a timely manner but will do their best to improve this.

Parents access to school

Clarification was requested from parents regarding access in to school as sometimes it is acceptable for parents to come in but other times it is not.

Mr Dedicoat confirmed that the safeguarding of the children is always of the utmost importance and keeping them safe. Restrictions are in place for a reason in line with other schools. All visitors/parents should sign in at the office when entering the school.

Lack of headteachers and teachers presence in the playground

In general, parents felt that in order to improve communication between the school and parents that it would be helpful for the class teachers and headteacher to be more visible at the end of the day.

Mr Dedicoat agreed that he would be present in the playground at the end of the school day as regularly as possible and would also request the teachers to do the same.

Rules drinking during lesson time

Year 1 parents had asked for clarification what the rules were for children being able to have a drink during lessons.

Mr Dedicoat confirmed that there were no current rules for this but acknowledged that there should be a consistent approach across the school and would review this.

Pupil's tests

There were concerns from Year 3 parents that the children had felt unsettled about recent tests and that it was important for parents to be aware of when tests are being taken so that they can support their child in an appropriate way.

No information had been received about the results and it was felt that the management of the tests needed to be reviewed.

Mr Dedicoat explained the process for the school's system for testing and assessment for learning. In Reception the children are tested on entry to school. This is known as a baseline test. Year 1, they are tested on their phonics in the Summer Term with regular screening throughout the year. In KS2 the children take SATS at the end of Year 6 with SATS also taking place for children in Year 2. To ensure the children are familiar with the testing system they take PIRA (Reading) and Whiterose (Maths) tests throughout their time at school. This is to assess progress and to enable teachers to teach to the gaps in their learning.

Parentmail

There had been problems with access to parentmail. There were queries from parents that multiple messages were being sent out.

Mr Dedicoat acknowledged that there had been some teething problems with the new system but hopefully this would be corrected soon. Parentmail replaces the old texting system teacher2parent. Meals can be paid online, minimum amount of £11.50 (5 meals), if parents wish to pay less than this amount they can continue to pay at the office.

Pupil's progress

Parents in Year 2 felt they needed reassurance regarding their child's progress as this had been previously lacking.

Mr Dedicoat reiterated that all parents are entitled to receive information about their child's progress and could not comment on what had happened in the past. He explained that the school's expectations have been raised and that teacher's practice is regularly observed.

Support for parents

A suggestion was made that it would be helpful for parents if information regarding contact details for the school nurse, well-being and mental health services were available on the school's website. Kidzone had asked to pass on to the meeting that they were being contacted by parents of the school to discuss social and emotional issues and whether there was a need for some sort of family support role at the school.

Mr Dedicoat acknowledged this and said the school were working on this area.

School website

Mr Dedicoat was hoping to create more user friendly new website in the near future.

Next meeting: it was agreed to have a meeting in January to address agenda items that were not discussed at this meeting. Date to be confirmed.

Action: Mrs Southgate to arrange.