

Parents' Forum Meeting Minutes 12 February 2019

There were 17 parents in attendance today.

- Mr Hutchings introduced the forum as usual and said that the content had been built up from the requests of parents at the last forum.
- Mr Hutchings introduced Jo Arnold (SENCo) for her to make a brief presentation to parents about SEND at Hamilton
- Jo discussed that there were different approaches to children with SEND and that some children would have longer on the register than others.
- Jo mentioned that over half of the children on the register at the moment have Speech and Language needs, and that mainly this was focused in the infants.
- Jo mentioned that the support teacher had been in 4 times this term and seen 14-16 children on each visit.
- The school works with the Specialist Teacher Team to support children with ADHD, Autism and Visual Impairment.
- The school is also supported by the Social Emotional and Well-being Team.
- Jo mentioned that the school also refers to the health visitor/school nursing teams and will refer, if needed, to the paediatrics teams.
- The Educational Psychologist has visited the school and provided staff with specific training in 2018 regarding best practises for learning.
- A parent raised the question of the number of hours Jo works and when she said it was 2 days, the parent suggested this was not enough for a school of 420 pupils.
- There was a suggestion of the school employing an SEN support assistant to support Jo with paperwork.
- A parent raised a question around whether Jo was directly involved in 1:1 teaching with children. Jo stated that she didn't as she had a management role, but that she would love to be teaching children directly from time to time.
- A question was raised regarding funding for pupils with SEND and Mr Hutchings stated that the school was currently spending approximately £80,000 a year on supporting SEND across the school for which the school received no additional funds.
- Parents suggested that there were a number of specific terms that they did not know about regarding SEND and it was suggested that an information event be run to support parents understanding of the SEND process and the SEND report from the school. Jo Arnold and Nick Hutchings will organise a date in the near future.
- A parent asked if the EYFS Phonics Training and Tapestry Training sessions for parents could be notified earlier as they needed 6 weeks notice to change their shift pattern. Mr Hutchings said that he would aim for that information to be in the induction pack for parents.
- Discussion took place around the school development plan priorities and parents were pleased to see a proposed increase in the SENCo's hours. They welcomed the chance to review the rewards and behaviour policy.
- There was discussion around the Year Ahead meetings and how they might be improved. Parents raised the following points:
 - Show examples of last years work

- Discuss what is being taught over the year in more detail
- More discussion on expectations of the children for the year
- Discussion on the teaching of English and Maths (What methods to use at home)
- How phonics is being taught
- Recommended links to resources and websites for the year
- PSA link to attend the meeting and talk about their role
- Year 6 meeting is too short - split the Aylmerton meeting from the Year Ahead meeting
- The meeting closed at 3pm.