

## **MINUTES FROM PARENT FORUMS.**

Mr Pritchard welcomed the parents to the forum and explained that he wanted a parents perspective on school. The forum is designed for parents to give ideas/suggestions on school life not for complaints – Mr Pritchard explained that if parents needed to complain about certain issues that they would be addressed through other channels.

Mr Pritchard introduced Dr Bailey, Chair of Governors and Mrs Duffy, Deputy Headteacher.

Mr Pritchard began with sharing the findings of the recent Parental Questionnaire, particularly two areas where the responses were negative:

1. I feel welcome in school
2. My school takes on my concerns.

Parents thought that this reply was probably based on what happened in the past and that the questionnaire could have been published at a later date. Mr Pritchard agreed and proposes to send the questionnaire out again during the Summer term.

Parents commented that most parents recognise that Mr Pritchard is making changes and welcomed them.

One parent felt that there was a lack of familiarity/acknowledgment from staff. She felt that staff often seem defensive and don't appear to be happy when on the playground.

One parent commented that it was unfriendly at Kennington. The previous head was unfriendly and didn't appear to know what was going on. She felt that it was now much better.

Parents often feel that they aren't encouraged to help their child move forward. Not enough support given to help push their children forward. When asked how they can help their child develop. Some staff are accommodating. When parents ask for test results and how they can help their child this wasn't given.

### **School trips:**

- Parents commented on the short notice given. Mr Pritchard explained that Mrs Richardson is the Educational Visits Co-ordinator and has revised the policy. Staff are to give a minimum of 3 weeks' notice to parents. The policy is to be shared with staff at the next staff meeting.
- One parent commented that a school trip was organised during Eid. Staff insisted that all children must attend as it was an important part of the curriculum. She felt that school did not respect their beliefs. Mr Pritchard will draw up a list of religious/important dates for events.
- One parent asked if there could be more variety in the trips offered – her child had been to the same venue 3 times.

### **Clubs:**

- Parents were pleased that clubs were being introduced but complained that cancellations are frequent. Children are disheartened that there are not many places at the clubs.

- One parent commented that there are not enough clubs – children’s needs not satisfied. Mr Pritchard will involve the school council to find out what clubs they want to see.
- Mr Pritchard explained that the majority of staff are running booster clubs for Year 6, therefore, other clubs have been postponed until after the examinations. He explained that staff volunteer to run clubs it isn’t compulsory. One parent asked if volunteers could run the clubs? Mr Pritchard explained that DBS checks would need to be carried out but was happy with the idea. One parent commented that there could be a bank of parental volunteers who could run clubs on a rota.
- Mr Pritchard is looking at buying in sports coaches to run clubs before and after school and would make it a priority for KS1 children to access the clubs.

#### **Classroom Assemblies for parents to attend:**

- Parents asked if there could be individual class assemblies that they could attend. Mr Pritchard explained that organising class assemblies was quite time consuming however he will look into classes perhaps having an assembly once a year.
- Mr Pritchard thought that the Mothers Day assembly went well. Parents enjoyed the coffee morning and Mr Pritchard proposes to run more coffee mornings at least 3 per year.

#### **PTA:**

- Parents felt that children were missing out on events run by the PTA. Mr Pritchard explained that the PTA AGM is to be held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April at 7pm in school. We are looking at setting a fundraising target – give PTA ideas for what school needs. Mr Pritchard hoped that the PTA would run coffee mornings in school.
- One parent asked if the Christmas Fair could be held on a Saturday. The general feeling is that not everyone would come on a Saturday.
- Another parent asked if the PTA meetings could be at 9am for parents to attend after they have dropped their children off. This can be discussed at the AGM.

#### **Homework:**

- Parents find it frustrating that when homework is set it is not marked. Mr Pritchard confirmed that all homework must be marked.
- Parents felt that there was an inconsistent approach to homework. Mr Pritchard doesn’t want homework to become a burden or cause friction – he is looking at introducing Learning Logs after the Easter holidays which is a different approach to homework. This will be project work based on topic work that the children will be working on in class – it gives the children a chance to be more creative with their homework. Mr Pritchard will be revising the homework policy.
- A parent asked if there could be recognition for reading – perhaps a sticker in their book. Mrs Duffy is looking at launching a reading challenge – incentive for children to read.
- Mrs Duffy is looking at the reading scheme and introducing a home/school diary for dialogue between teachers and parents. A parent asked how the reading is assessed, how often do the children move up a stage. Mrs Duffy assesses the children at the end of a term. Foundation/Y1 can they decode a book? Y2 builds on decoding, Mrs Duffy has to ensure

that the understanding of comprehension is there. Parents can help by asking their children questions about the book they have been reading to make sure they understand the story.

#### **House Teams:**

- Parents welcomed the introduction of the House Team system. School will be providing each child with a badge with their house name on. The School Council is more involved – they voted for the team names and were involved in the plans for KS2 playtimes.
- A parent asked if there were any plans for Easter competitions. Mr Pritchard asked Mrs Molloy if there had been competitions in the past. There is usually a decorated egg competition every year which Mrs Nuttall co-ordinates. Mr Pritchard was happy to continue with this and told parents he would send letters out.

Mr Pritchard thanked the parents for attending the forums and offering their suggestions.