

## Parent's Forum Minutes – Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2015

### Agenda:

- Introductions
- An opportunity to discuss the year
- Write your thoughts on Post it notes
- Discuss the positives
- Areas for improvement
- Responses to questions

Following the introductions of parents and staff, Ms Tregaskis invited parents to write down some of the 'Positives' that have occurred over the past academic year and areas for improvement. These are listed here:

<b>Positives</b>	<b>Areas to consider over the next year</b>
There has been an amazing curriculum link to trips. The children relate to what is being taught. The Guild Hall trip in particular stood out as it brought History to life	At times, parents wait too long after school for their children to come down. This then makes them late for out of school activities and is difficult for those who have appointments afterwards
Mr Hazell's ethos and the school policy on attendance and punctuality have been really important. The importance of being early sets you up for later life	More information needs to be given about music lessons which take place in school
Cooking has been a positive. The children have learnt a lot from Sylvain	The cooking should be promoted better
The FAST programme was really good. It was good speaking to other people and it culminated in a picnic which was positive and successful	It would be nice to see more after school activities such as dancing classes for the infants like ballet and also a dance class for parents in the morning
Everyone loved Strictly! The children were very proud to have had the opportunity of having their school on T.V	there needs to be more emphasis on developing cohesion between cultures and classes
The children are happy at school and enjoy the summer concerts and all of the activities as well their Education at large – They are pleased to be a part of Clapham Manor	Where possible to keep one or two teachers for one class throughout the academic year
ELS support	Employment of teachers should reflect the diversity of the school

<b>Positives</b>	<b>Areas to consider over the next year</b>
Very good level of teaching. My child has certainly enjoyed this year	More control over the children in the playground
The camping trip encouraged independence and a sense of responsibility	There needs to be more promotion of diversity / equality in the school
Children from Year 3 ending their days by shaking hands. Also, waiting under the shelter	Some people from the Black, Ethnic Minorities groups feel marginalised and do not know who to speak to about issues that may arise
Sum dog was a fantastic way to get children to enjoy maths. Chance to dance was really enjoyable for the kids	Sports programmes within the school need to be promoted
Horse riding was a strength and gave the children opportunities to try something new	A lot of people do not read the newsletter, could things be promoted differently?
Sharing assemblies are lovely to watch	More should be done to engage a range of cultures within the school. Parents feel scared off by the lack of representation and when they feel this way, it filters through to their children
The trips this year have been a very enriching experience. The Spinney was enjoyed and the trip to London Zoo	On the first day of the new academic year when the children were informed of their classes it was a mess and no one could hear properly. Everyone seemed quite stressed

### **Response to areas for Development;**

#### **Music lessons**

Parents felt that music lessons were not promoted well. Mr Hazell stated that the promotions of music lessons were done via booklets and newsletters as well as the school website. He said that this provision is expensive and he is trying to be clear on where to make cuts.

With regards to the Music Lessons, Mr Hazell explained that the music teacher had left and he was considering how to re-introduce the music lessons and who would be responsible for this. He said that when looking at the budget, he realised that £40/50,000 was being spent on music within the school and only £6,000 was recouped from the parents so some parent were paying and some were not and that it was challenging for staff handover as the music teacher had left. Mr Hazell would be giving careful consideration as to how this would be dealt with in the future

### **Parent reps**

A slot for parent reps to meet and greet parents was requested so as a clear line of communication could be ascertained.

The parents said many parents are reluctant to give their emails as a means of contact but that the class rep may be able to think of ways to improve this. It was agreed by all that word of mouth was essential to disseminating information.

### **Playground incidents**

Parents were concerned that children were making inappropriate comments in the playground. One parent gave the example of her daughter being pushed and a derogatory comment was made and the question was raised was how these incidents are dealt with.

Mr Hazell said that playground incidents of a serious nature are reported to Lambeth. He said he has ensured that there is now a Senior Leader on duty at all times of the days should a serious incident occur. It is then dealt with on a case by case basis however, it is not something that occurs often.

It was raised that some issues within the playground are not stopped straight away and at times children are told 'just ignore it'.

Mr Hazell/Ms Tregaskis said that is integral that you see your child's class teacher if your child feels unsafe. Mr Allen and Ms How are also available with regards to concerns about behaviour.

Mr Hazell said if things are brought to his attention he deals with them individually and that teachers will speak to the children and let them know what will happen next. When there are issues between children, the children often sort these things out themselves but if there is a concern about safeguarding, you have to speak to a teacher.

Mr Hazell said there is no magic way to improve things but if we don't know we cannot do anything. He said that 2 children had been excluded and that we have systems and sanctions in place which cannot be implemented if we are unaware.

It was acknowledged that sometimes, subtle name calling can be harmful.

### **Promoting Diversity**

A parent raised a concern that some parents do not feel that the teachers reflect the diversity of the school and that some parents feel that they have no one to relate to and are unsure of whom to approach to express their views.

The parent felt it would be beneficial to have a working party to promote diversity within the school, a comment which was echoed by other parents.

One parent said that he believes popular culture is encouraging children to say things that they do not understand. He feels that it is important that all of the parents are happy to be around each other and we need to work together and discuss ways to move forward

### **Newsletters**

Parents said that some of them do not read the newsletter and that slips to individuals about trips and what is going to happen may be more useful.

They felt that notes home such as 'don't forget your swimming kit would be more helpful'.

Mr Hazell said that although this does happen, it is more of a class issue than whole school.

Some parents thought that text messages would be more helpful as it is easier to access this than an email.

Some children have told their parents that they do not receive newsletters. Mr Hazell said that colour copies of letters cost 3 times as much as black and white. He said that some families say they do not receive one and others say they receive too many. Mr Hazell said the decision was taken to give the oldest child in the family a letter so there are not as many copies.

### **The Spinney**

The Spinney has given a lovely new extension to the school. Children, parents and governors were asked what they would like to use the Spinney for.

It was thought that rather than spending a vast amount for a coach to camping, the space could be utilised for this purpose.

### **Sharing Assembly**

Parents felt that it can be difficult to hear in sharing assemblies and asked if it would be possible for the children to have a microphone.

They felt some children talk and become fidgety because those presenting are talking quietly.

Ms Tregaskis said that the Speaking and Listening focus within the school is speaking to an audience and it is important that children have the opportunity to do this.

Mr Hazell said that a hand held mic was trialled and was a problem and a hanging mic was quite costly so would have to be looked into.

**The date and time of the next Parent Forum is to be confirmed**