

Parents Forum Minutes
Wednesday 9th November 2016

Attended by:

Mr Hazell, Mrs Allen, Ms How and 20 parents/carers. Minutes taken by: Mrs Theophilou

Welcome from Mr Hazell

Mr Hazell welcomed everybody to the meeting and advised that this was the correct forum to have official discussions on any issues parents may have.

Mrs Allen advised that it is the parents/carers that set the agenda advising the school what they would like discussed.

Items raised from previous meeting

School Priorities

Mr Hazell advised us of the following:

- School Priorities has been completed and a new prospectus is currently being produced. This will be sent to the Friends of Clapham Manor (The Friends) for their comments
- The School Development Plan (SDP) is now on the website, the only thing that is not on the website is the Governing Body list which will be put on shortly
- The School Priorities are displayed around school and the 16-17 priorities will be on display from next week. If any parents/carers have any comments about this, please contact the school

Languages

Mrs Allen advised that from year 3 upwards the school receives funding for languages. Parents requested that languages are taught from Reception onwards however, there is currently no funding for the Early Years and the school as yet have not come up with a solution.

Mr Hazell advised that the funding from the Government has been reduced, therefore, the school has to do more for less. This means that some decisions have to be made and one of the current decisions is when support staff leave the school does not replace them.

Parent – Spoke about ‘Friendly Spanish’ who can deliver Spanish as an after school club that parents can pay for. Another parent mentioned that they would most probably also do Reception. This is an after school club and can be organised by the school office.

Mrs Allen asked if anyone knows of anybody that is French and will deliver lessons for free to the children, please speak to Mrs Allen.

Parent – Offered herself as a Portuguese speaker.

Parents/Carers were invited to share their concerns and comments

Books

Parent concern about the lack of books in school and missing books.

Mrs Allen advised that The Friends were amazing and would like to thank them for donating money for book.

Mr Hazell advised that a retired Headteacher comes in once a week and volunteers her time towards the library keeping it up to date which the school have spent £2k on so far.

Class blogs on website

Parent comment – Cannot get onto the class blogs as it is very confusing and a long way around. Mrs Theophilou advised that this is currently being made clearer by clicking a button on the front page that will take parents directly to the class blogs.

Homework before Christmas

Parents asked if it was possible not to have homework over the Christmas holidays. Mrs Allen said yes that was fine and would pass this on to her colleagues

Comment: Please continue with Chinese language,

Response - Unfortunately, the funding has run out, so it has stopped for the time being.

Newsletter: More notice required in Newsletter. More notice required for events so parents can get the time off. Ensure messages on newsletter

School Website – there is a school calendar that you can use – Put a note of this on the newsletter

Parent Comment: toilets are dirty at 3.45pm. Mrs Theophilou advised toilets are cleaned twice a day. Parent comment not enough could they be cleaned more often straight after playtimes. Mr Hazell advised that if anyone finds anything that is not clean, to tell us.

Parent comment: If children are playing in playground after school they have no access to toilets. Mrs Allen asked what the current guidance is. Mr Hazell advised that we have more accidents after school in the playground. If there is an accident, it is the parents' responsibility after 3.30pm, and the school is not liable. Parents should have responsibility over their children after school.

Parent Comment: I have 3 children and am very happy with school Yr. 1, 2 & 4 Curriculum change and is more challenging and I expect it to reflect in the homework but it is not being reflected, I notice more in year 4 that the homework is not so challenging. Year 1& 2 are fine. The homework marking is very strange and is just ticked. If I correct my child's mistakes, will it be a problem to do this with regards to their learning?

Response: Teachers take about two hours a day marking work. Mrs Allen advised parents to speak to class teacher to advise them that the homework is easy and could it be more challenging. Parents can also use Espresso.

Parent comment: is there a possibility for an increase in homework club capacities? Sometimes, there is not always time in the evening for parents to help with the homework. Round the corner, a lady called Diane runs a homework club at the church on Venn Street.

Question: what is Espresso?

Answer: Mrs Allen advised that it is a website that supports in all areas of learning. We can put login details in newsletter and we can give you the login.

ACTION

Question: Class blog should it be password protected, as anyone can access this.

Mrs Allen: - advised of reason why not password protected.

Parent Comment: if you do not want your child on the website parents can sign this.

TA asked for other parent comments:

Discussion - Parents do not mind as they get a greater insight into the school and the children also like it as they can see themselves on the class blog.

Ms How said that we did look at this from a safeguarding point of view and we are selective with what information goes on the website. We would like it to be password protected we would check that.

ACTION – MT and TA to find out whether this can be done.

Breakfast Club – child starting next week and parent petrified will walk out of school. Mrs Allen advised the children are brought down at 9am by the staff and taken to class.

Mrs Allen gave out post it notes, for parents to write what they are happy with and what they would like to raise. These will be reviewed.

Question raised – from previous minutes regarding videos being shown in school.

Mrs Allen responded that videos are shown during wet plays – this is mainly for reception as they have Early Years Educators (EYE). There is not enough staff at that particular time so they watch a video.

Parent Comment – At times, teachers and other staff members are seen smoking under arches and it sets a bad example.

ACTION – TA will speak to smokers

Parent comment – When children do not finish their English homework/misbehave, they are told they cannot go out. It is important for children to take break.

Mrs Allen agreed about lunchtimes, but it is about the effort that they put into work.

Parent Comment – not all children have the same capabilities so it is not fair to punish those who are not always as capable as others.

Mrs Allen responded that it is about the effort not finishing.

Parent question – why can't girls wear boots?

Mrs Allen responded that the boots constrict their growth development on their ankle muscles.

They can wear boots to school and change when they come in.

Parent question – what is the sickness policy?

Ms How responded that parents/carers should call the office on the child's first day of absence and each day they are absent thereafter. The attendance team will monitor sickness and if it goes below a particular percentage evidence of doctor appointments will need to be seen. If attendance falls below 92%, parents/carers will be invited to attend a meeting with the Educational Welfare officer as this level of absence is a cause for concern. Children who have attendance of 90% or below are classed as persistent absentees.

Question – Meals – there is cake on the menu daily, therefore children can choose cake every day.

Mrs Allen advised that everyday there is a healthy option and that the menu is nutritionally calculated.

Ms How advised that the menus are available on the website for parents to see.

Parent Comment: Chips and Pizza – kitchen staff add chips to pizza even if children do not want.

ACTION –Mrs Allen will speak to kitchen staff to listen to what the children want and for children clearly to say what they want.

Mrs Allen advised that the forum is held termly and the next meeting will be on the 1st March 2017