

Parent's Forum Minutes – Wednesday 14th March 2018

Attended by parents/carers of children in the following year groups;

Reception (2), Year 1 (3), Year 2 (2), Year 3 (1), Year 4 (2) Year 5 (1), Year 6 (0)

Welcome from Ms Allen and introduction to Ms Chinnadurai as the new Headteacher

- Ms Chinnadurai invited the parents & carers to introduce themselves

Updates from the previous meeting

<p>Parent representatives</p> <p>Parent representatives are in place for classes up to year 3 and this is having a positive impact. Kristen has put herself forward to be the rep for year 4</p>	<p>Parents survey / homework</p> <p>The majority of parents who completed the survey are very happy. The main points raised were around homework. The policy on homework is currently being reviewed and the school are looking at ways to move forward.</p>
<p>Aviva project funding</p> <p>We were unsuccessful in gaining the AVIVA funding however, we do have the edible playground and all children will be cultivating a variety of vegetables which they will then use within their cooking session with Mr Jamois.</p>	<p>Quiz night</p> <p>The quiz night took place and was very successful. A comedy night will take place on the 28th March.</p>
<p>Enrichment clubs</p> <p>Cooking club will not be replaced at this stage. The other clubs are going well. A problem was highlighted with dance and choir as they clashed.</p>	<p>Natural light</p> <p>In addition to the high bamboo, it was stated that blinds are always drawn so the children can see the screen. This was said to happen across a lot of classes.</p> <p>Mrs Allen said that there is currently a rolling programme to look at the windows so gradual changes can be made.</p>
<p>Information to parents / carers</p> <p>Parents / carers have said that a lot of paper goes home. One of the Grandparents said as she has two Grandchildren in the school, she gets duplicates of everything, Miss Chinnadurai said she is currently looking at a parent app called Parent Mail where all information will be placed for parents to be able to access. She is also looking at a translator app so as the information can be accessed in a variety of languages.</p>	

Points discussed today

Is the edible playground going to link with the growing green Project?

Parents/Carers asked whether children will be able to sell the produce that they grow at Venn street?

Mrs Allen said they will be able to do this but at this time it is not clear how much produce will be available in July.

Enrichment clubs

A point was raised that there are a lot of clubs which take place on a Wednesday. Miss Chinnadurai is looking at the club and stated that it was discussed at the governors meeting. People are generally happy that there is a lot of variety in the clubs that are provided. The Friends of Clapham Manor are putting in a bid for a parent and child cooking club.

Some parents mentioned that as there is no longer gymnastics and circus skills, it means there is now only one club for Reception. Will this change?

A question was asked about Language club and whether the prices can be looked into.

Parents / carers felt that the children do not always behave in clubs as well as they do at school.

Driving

A parent raised the concern that a lot of people drive and leave their engines running right in front of the school.

She felt they should be asked to stop as it is illegal. It was felt that it would be helpful if the school could contact the council to request that signs are put up around the school as the children should not be expected to breathe those fumes in.

Wet play

Rather than putting films on, can the children have an opportunity to play indoors?

It was explained that there are not enough staff members to ensure the safety of all of the children if they are in individual classes. Supervision is also given when children go to the toilet so we would need more than one adult per class in order for this to happen.

Indoor play does happen for each class at morning play as there are more staff but not at lunchtime.

Parents / Carers have said they will be happy to volunteer to support at break times. Those that were interested in providing cover should speak to the school office to complete a DBS.

Miss Chinnadurai and Mrs Allen stated that the dissemination of support staff is being looked into for September.

Massage

Parents / carers gave positive feedback about massage. They felt it helped the children's focus. It was asked whether this is something that will be rolled out across the school. It was explained that Noreen (the massage therapist) volunteers her time. It is being looked at as to whether Noreen can train the teachers for September so the techniques can be used in class.

Fitness club

Positive feedback was given about fitness club, Parents / carers said their children look forward it and see it as 'the best part of their week'. The point was raised that not many parents are aware that fitness club takes place. They felt it was a great start to the day and the information should go to parents, particularly as it is free! Ms Daniells organises the activity so Mrs Allen will speak to her regarding this.

Sports day

Parents/Carer's of children in Early Years and key stage 1 do not get to watch sports day. It is felt that when they were growing up, sports day was a big deal and parents want to see their children competing. It is understood that it is not all about winning and it is the taking part but those who show a real aptitude should be recognised.

It was explained that currently, Nursery to Year 2, have a 'Mini Olympics' in the junior playgrounds. They are in mixed teams and take part in different events. The winning team is presented with a cup. The

purpose of this is for the children to learn how to work together as part of a team. As this takes place in the playground, unfortunately, there is not enough space to accommodate the parents/carers. Years 3 to 6 go to Battersea Park and due to there being a lot of space, parent/carers can watch. A parent said that she feels that it is important to see how their children are at sports. Miss Chinnadurai said that the Senior Leadership Team will have a discussion about the mini Olympics and the possibility of children having races at Clapham Common.

One of the parents felt that it is good that parents are unable to watch the younger children as she saw a child previously who was heartbroken that they had not won and she would not like to see her child upset like that. It was raised that the PTA may be able to sponsor the event so as parents can pay to watch at Clapham Common.

Tests

Parents felt that the children having tests at the beginning of the term and then again at the end, they are concerned about how much time is being spent on this. Particularly when the children feel bad about not knowing some of the things which are on the tests.

Although some children have not been taught everything that is on the tests, it is important to assess children as individuals and some will know the answers to questions even if they have not been taught it. Parents feel that the first school report does not give them much information and just states that the children are emerging. Parent's / Carers noted that it must take a lot of time to collate the reports and felt it would be helpful if a comment could be written to let them know how their children are getting on generally.

Mrs Allen said that the purpose of having parent / carer conferences early in the academic year is to discuss how the children are getting on and a more detailed report is given in March / April.

If a child is still assessed as emerging at that time, it will need to be looked at.

New events

Parents asked whether there are plans for any new events to take place in school?

Miss Chinnadurai said the barbecue will continue but there will also be new things introduced. Miss Chinnadurai said she would like to bring more parents into the school.

Miss Chinnadurai said that a bid will be made in the hope of creating an art block at the Northlight building. She would like local artists to work there as well as the pupils. Art work will be displayed there. The art block will be good for school/community relationships.

It was asked whether there will be a non-uniform or pyjama day and it was confirmed that there will be.

Sports Relief

There are events planned to raise money for Sports Relief. Children will take part in a relay and wear t-shirts pertaining to their house colours. Once this has been finalised, parents/cares will be informed of the details via the school newsletter.

Summer Fair

It was asked if the date for the Summer Fair could be finalised as Sheraton Law would like to know when for advertising purposes. Venn street market has been confirmed for the 7th July 2018.

Community

The Spinney was discussed, and it was explained that it is not for the sole use of the school and some residents are against it. This is being looked at.

Closing points

Parent's/Carer asked if any events will be taking place for Easter? It was asked whether there can be an Easter hat parade which was agreed to. It was also requested that an Easter raffle is held.

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