

Parent's Forum Minutes – Wednesday 14th June 2017

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

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

Welcome from Mr Hazell & Ms Grace

- Mr Hazell told the parents that the new Head teacher would be attending the barbecue and walking around with him. He said that parents /carer's should feel free to approach and have a chat. This will also be announced in the newsletter
- Ms Grace distributed the Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy

Updates from the previous meeting

Espresso

As requested, the password was published in the school newsletter

School lunches & Portion sizes

Mr Hazell responded to the query around portion sizes. He said that the cake for the infants is cut into 30 pieces and the juniors are cut into 24. If the infants do not eat all of the pieces, it is then given to the juniors. As Clapham Manor is a food flagship school, Mr Hazell said that if any parents want to come in and have lunch, they are welcome. Parents would need to inform Mr Hazell or the school office if they would like to come in.

Staff in the playground

Mr Hazell and Ms Grace said they are thinking of ways to make it easier for the children to quickly identify where the adults are situated in playground. Mr Hazell said that Senior Leaders undertake a duty every day and when he was in the playground he could not see the staff on duty initially. Mr Hazell said they need to be easier to identify and it is likely that they will be provided with colourful sashes.

Do we monitor and gain feedback from After School Clubs?

Parent volunteers as well as two senior leaders are monitoring After School Clubs. Science club was queried previously and the office have since spoken to the Science Club about getting information to the parents/carers. A parent said this has now improved.

Communication and club allocation

All club allocations are now completed in advance. Parent's feedback that the system has now improved. They felt that the ease of making payments using parent pay and the variety of clubs on offer is excellent. Gymnastics for the Reception class was said to be fantastic.

Exercise

Parents felt that children could be given the opportunity to do some exercise at break times, as sometimes there are not enough staff members to run blocks of exercise groups. However, children have the opportunity to run around and play games at break times. Parents felt it would be good for children to have the opportunity to exercise in the mornings, especially before SATS, as it is good for their mental and physical health. Ms Grace said she would look into it.

Exercise books / Handwriting

Mr Hazell said that the English Coordinators are going to have a conversation with teachers regarding handwriting. For good practice, everyone may need to write on the narrower lines in order to meet expectations in Years 2 and 6. Parents asked why there is such a big push on handwriting and were advised that it is a skill for life. Ms Grace said that handwriting is hard to master. She said the school are currently using the 'pen pals' scheme. Mr Hazell said that handwriting is a skill that needs to be learnt from an early as it can be difficult which is why we start early. Mr Hazell said that a friend of his who is an OFSTED inspector wanted to look at handwriting across the school and he was very happy about the standard. Mr Hazell said he was advised that if we were to have an OFSTED inspection now, we would maintain our outstanding grade.

Ms Grace said that Pen Pals do not have a website but she will speak to the English Coordinators about getting information about handwriting to parents/carers in September. Parents said that there are some handwriting activities on espresso. It was clarified that children transition from using a pencil to a pen, in Year 3.

Summer Fair

The PTA asked if the governors could receive information about the Summer Fair as there have not been as many people offering to help and it would be great if the governors could get involved. A new treasurer is in place. It was asked if everyone could drum up support for the Summer Fair at the barbecue.

Playground accidents

Accidents in the playground have decreased significantly. Infants and juniors are separated and for a large chunk of time Reception and Year 1 are the only classes in the infant playground.

Ms Grace invited parents to write on post it notes the positives they have seen in school this year as well as areas for development

Positives	Areas to consider over the next year
The Natural thinkers programme	There has been an initiative in another school for children to run a mile a day. I think this helps with mental health. Could we do something similar? It doesn't have to be a mile just laps of the playground
Good discipline at the school	Better intervention in helping children to make good friendships
Diverse food at lunch time The school meals are varied and well balanced – there is no need for change	More homework
Bike skills	Parental involvement needs boosting
Very happy with emphasis on handwriting	Concerns about food offered at the After School Club
The house / cup points system is being very enthusiastically received by my daughter	The juniors have said that they do not want to sing Disney songs in music. Will this continue?
Everyone is approachable. The staff and the children	Children are not getting the opportunity to drink their milk during break time so it is being brought home at the end of the day
Great class morale between the teachers and student in Reception I love the way the Year 1 teachers work so well together. Sharing resources and ideas. Feels very together	With the Head teacher leaving, and lots of changes with staffing, we need to maintain consistency
Useful class trips School trips and interesting activities e.g., studio Voltaire, maths day, Grafton Square and the Spinney Trips to the Spinney are great! I attended with my daughter and enjoyed it there too	We heard at the PTA meeting about problem with getting pupil premium children signed up due to free school meals in the infants. What is happening with this?

Cooking with Mr Jamois is brilliant!!	
I love the artificial grass in the junior playground, so does my daughter	
The amount of After School Clubs and the running of it has been brill Activities on offer after school are excellent! My daughter is really enjoying her classes	
The Green House	
I like everything	

Points discussed today

Interventions

Parents said we have a number of parents who have teaching qualifications but are not working. It was asked if they are able to come in and run interventions with children. The PTA has sent out information but it would be helpful if school could do a push across the school for PTA and volunteers. Mr Hazell said that we can encourage parents to come in and help during the new parent assemblies. Parents asked if families are aware that their children are receiving interventions. Ms Grace said parents / carers would be told on parents' evening. Ms Grace said that meetings are held with Senior Leaders and class teachers termly to discuss which children need support. Interventions are carried at various points through the day.

After school Club food

A parent said that her daughter attends After School Club on a Friday. She said that and as children are served chips at lunchtime, she is unhappy that they are offered them again at After School Club. Mr Hazell said that he will speak to Ms Theophilou and the matter will be looked into.

Milk

Parents have said their children are missing out on milk. They said when this was raised they were told that milk cannot be taken into the playground as discarded cartons can attract foxes. It was felt that as milk is not given during the natural break, it is forgotten so can we ask teachers to ensure that it is given straight before or after play

Music

Ms Launn is currently covering music lessons. Parents ask if Ms Launn will continue next term however, Mr Hazell explained that we have a parent who teaches music starting in September.

Friendships

Ms Grace said that we are well staffed for Pastoral Support and that many friendship intervention groups are run within school. Ms Grace said that if a child is struggling, parents / carers should speak to the class teacher in the first instance and a social group will be identified for the child if necessary.

Homework

Ms Grace stated that homework tends to come often as some people want a lot of homework to be given, and some want none at all. Ms Grace said other than reading, for a child of Primary school age, there is no evidence to show that there is an impact on their attainment through homework. Children need some down time when at home as they need an opportunity to play.

New Reception Class intake

New parents, carer's and children will meet with Mr Hazell in July instead of September this year. One of the reasons for this is to have a clearer of the children who have pupil premium entitlement. Due to universal free school meals for children the Reception class, Year 1 and year 2, parents are not making applications for Free

school meals so we do not have a true reflection of pupil premium needs. All parents will be encouraged to make an application so as school and families do not miss out on essential funding.

Staffing for the new academic year

Mr Jobson leaving the school was in last week's newsletter and Mr Hazell announced in the Parent Forum that Ms Grace will also be leaving. A parent stated that she has a child in Reception and an older child who attended Clapham Manor. She said that she considers it quite unsettling that a number of teachers who have been here for a long time and are running the school are leaving. Other parents felt the same. Mr Hazell said 2 years ago, no members of the teaching staff left but now, some people feel it is time for them to move on and we have been very fortunate.

The parents said that things can be very different when the people at the top change. Mr Hazell reminded parents that they would have an opportunity to meet the new Head teacher at the barbecue. Ms Grace said that there is a lot of stability in the main teaching body and Mr Hazell said that some of our Outstanding teachers will be spoken to about 'acting up' through the school until the Head teacher starts in January as it is now too late to recruit 2 assistant Head teachers.

The good schools guide

Parents asked Mr Hazell why Clapham Manor is not featured in the good schools guide. Mr Hazell invited parents to write a short review of the school and mark it for the attention of Ms Grace to forward to the good schools guide.

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

Ms Grace said that the Safeguarding and Child Protection policies are going to the governors for its annual review. She invited parent to give their opinions and mark them for the attention of the school office. Ms Grace said the policies are regularly reviewed to include new legislation but we need parental views. Ms Grace asked that the policy be passed on to other families so as we can look at the parent's views and consider them.

Funding

Mr Hazell said that the Conservatives had an initiative which will put more money into schools however, the proposed amount would not be sufficient to cover the roles. Mr Hazell said he attended the National Association of Head teachers meeting over the Bank Holiday weekend and Mr Corbyn attended. He had pledged to put 5 million pounds into schools. As his party have not come into power, this may now be scrapped so there may now be half a million pound put into schools

Parents have asked if there is anything, they can do to support funding? Mr Hazell said that he had a union meeting and everyone was advised to 'wait and see' what happens as nothing will be implemented until the new financial year, which is on the 1st April 2018.

Closing points

- The summer picnic for the new Reception classes' intake will take place on the 9th September at the Spinney from 2-4pm
- Mr Hazell said that the How are we doing booklets will be sent out in approximately 10 days.

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