

Parent's Forum Minutes – Wednesday 30th September 2015

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

Reception (7), Year 1 (8), Year 2 (3), Year 3 (2), Year 4 (1) Year 5 (2), Year 6 (2)

Agenda;

- Competition news
- Ways of gaining parental views
- Positive comments and next steps
- Changing education and OFSTED
- Open forum for parents/carers to ask questions and for staff to respond

Competition news

Ms Clarke shared Shaun the sheep to celebrate the achievement of the children for winning the eco paint competition.

Ways of gaining parental views

Mr Hazell explained that there are many different ways of gaining parents/carers views. These include forums, suggestion boxes and consultations.

Today's forum will allow parents to put their view across to the school

Positive comments and next steps

Ms Allen invited parents to write down some of the 'Positives' within the school as well as areas for improvement and place them on the board. Mr Hazell said this would be an opportunity for parents/carers to feed into the shared vision of Clapham Manor. These are listed here:

Positives	Areas to consider over the next year
New curriculum	Can we be clearer on who is organising encouraging and recruiting for the Extra Curricular activities
The new academic year class arrangements, transition worked very well – Well done for listening to parents	Is there a permanent replacement for Ms Parker – Music Teacher
Well done on supporting the PTA	Can we try and celebrate events such as Eid
Class teachers have been friendly, kind and able to answer quick questions at pick up / drop off My child is relaxed about saying goodbye at the start of the school day	Is cake and custard on the menu everyday considered to be healthy eating and why is Halal food not provided at lunchtimes?

Positives	Areas to consider over the next year
Home visits for the Reception parents and children has made children feel at ease about starting school	It would be good to have more resources for creative activities in year one and More support for Art during school hours
My daughter is extremely happy at school	Are there an affiliations to charity organisations like City Year, Teach First etc. as we can utilise their services to benefit the children
The PTA support was lovely for the new Reception parents/carers	How do Clapham Manors staff retention rates compare to the National average and are the Year 2 class in Clapham behind other schools in maths?
The idea of having a little bit of homework for year 1 every day is really good	Children should have Hi visibility jackets on trips and there should be more 'fun' trips for the younger children
there is a great atmosphere in classes	Communication between parents/Carers, teachers and children could be improved
The new parents assembly was excellent and I welcomed the chance to meet the class teacher and see the classroom	Needs to be more communication from the Governors meeting such as visibility of minutes, proposals, vision and implemented changes
A very smooth transition from year 1 to Reception	More exercise facilities eg; football, basketball especially for year 4 and above
Brilliant to have the Year 1 meeting early in the year to allow parents/carers to find out about the curriculum meet the teacher etc.	Is there a Chinese course?
A good first experience of Breakfast club	There are less phonics/reading books in the year 1 classroom
Homework everyday encourages good habits	is there some way of sharing names/pictures of Reception parents

Changing education and OFSTED

Education is changing constantly and the new curriculum has been introduced.

Our last OFSTED inspection was 8 years ago and it was deemed that Clapham Manor was outstanding in all areas based on our data for phonics, EYFS, KS1 and KS2.

Although our funding has been reduced, our results have not dipped. Therefore, from September this year, we will not be inspected routinely as our results are 100% in all subjects and all children leave Clapham Manor secondary ready.

The only reason that a visit would take place would be a reduction in results or an increase in safeguarding concerns.

Response to comments from parents/carers

Language teachers

Parents asked at what age children start learning an additional language and were told KS2. Parents felt that the younger the children start learning an additional language the better and wanted to know why this could not be offered to KS1.

Mr Hazell said that although he is open to this, in the first instance, he has to prioritise to ensure that the essential aspects of the curriculum are covered first.

The parents asked why they are now learning French when it was previously Spanish.

Ms Clarke said that in the past, schools within the collaborative trialled every class teacher leading a language.

This was described as rather difficult to sustain and gave a watered down version of teaching languages which lessened impact.

It was felt that in one school, they were able to access a better standard of French teaching however, we have same teacher who is shared between 4 schools within the collaborative.

Ms Clarke said she is pleased to announce that as of October 2015, Lambeth Academy has offered to share their specialist Mandarin teachers at no cost and they will be offering a 'Chinese Club' after school.

As Mandarin is developing into one of the major international Languages, it was felt that this would be a great opportunity for the children and it will be offered to KS1.

Parents asked if it is only Year 3 that Learn French and were told that it is part of the Curriculum for years 3 to 6 for an hour a week. The parents asked whether this would count towards their grades in Secondary school and it was explained that with Modern Foreign Languages, the secondary schools start from scratch.

Mr Hazell and Ms Allen said that on the school website, there is a link to French where further information can be accessed.

Clubs

A parent asked whether there will be an opportunity for Spanish club. Mr Hazell responded by saying that if there is enough demand and a teacher could be found who would run the sessions at a reasonable rate, he is open to it.

Mr Hazell explained that previously, we employed a teacher to run a French Club. Initially, the teacher had introduced puppets and the children were really engaged. After a few weeks however, the standard of the lessons being taught were not sustained and the children's attention waned which resulted in them running around and not learning.

Mr Hazell said that he would like to be able to provide free clubs however, the school has experienced a £150,000 budget cut which means we are unable to do this and clubs will have to be charged at a higher rate.

The question was raised as to whether the PTA can help with this.

Mr Hazell said that we have a great PTA and school works in partnership with the parents. He said that unfortunately, some clubs need thousands of pounds to survive.

Mr Hazell said we now have an artist in residence that will be providing subsidised art clubs across the school.

A parent felt that it was unclear what was hoped to be achieved and what the objectives and obvious gaps are for Afterschool clubs.

It was explained that the Extra Curricular clubs we provide are for enjoyment rather than being an additional part of the curriculum

Mr Hazell said that Breakfast, holiday and after school clubs are provided to support working parents in addition to the Extra Curricular Clubs and he would like to be able to offer additional activities for every child but currently, the focus is on delivering the new curriculum from Nursery to year 6.

Mr Clarke said that in private schools, teachers are contracted to run an Extra Curricular Clubs but this is not something Clapham Manor wants to implement

Ms Clarke added that Extra Curricular clubs are for the purpose of enrichment rather than being linked to the curriculum and that Homework club is provided to support the children's learning. She said that in other schools, they put the emphasis on clubs but they are struggling academically.

Mr Clarke said she will not compromise the children's learning to provide additional clubs.

Parents asked whether Yoga and football are offered to KS1 and said that parents would be keen on coming into school to run sessions such as Zumba and Drama. Kristen is already providing Tennis lessons for children in years 1 and 2.

Mr Hazell said that people have different views on which clubs should be offered and that there are no magic answers.

He said he is happy for people to run clubs but room availability needs to be considered.

Mr Hazell said that Mr Jobson over sees the extracurricular activities and Ms Jackson deals with the clerical side. He suggested arranging a meeting with them in terms of clubs which could be offered.

Ms Clarke said the Extra Curricular timetable will be put on the school website.

The office

Parents wanted to know who was responsible for the clubs and how is the information disseminated to parents from the office.

They felt that they were unclear on some aspects of the office workings since Margarita left.

Mr Hazell said he shared some of the views and that he had two members of the office staff who had been with him for 15 years so there are now adjustments which had to be made which has meant a few hiccups.

Music

The parents said letters went out regarding music however, they had not all received them It was explained that the music lessons were only currently on offer for KS2.

Mr Hazell said that the clubs are heavily subsidised by the school and no other local schools offer the same broad range of instruments that we do. He told parents that we offer Piano, Guitar and Clarinet

Parents wanted to know why these opportunities were not afforded to KS1 and it was explained that the school hasn't the money or resources to manage this.

Mr Hazell said that other schools have stopped subsidising altogether and parents had to pay the full cost.

The parents asked whether the PTA could support the cost but Mr Hazell said that music is not the only financial consideration and we need to think about other areas that could need support with funding such as trips to ensure that there is an equal amount of support to subsidise costs.

Information sharing

Parents suggested that perhaps a Reception welcome pack should be provided to new starters to include what is happening throughout the school rather than it being class specific.

Parents said it would be nice for them to have an overview as some did not realise languages were taught in school at all and felt that would be something they would like to be aware of. Other parents said that they would like to know what clubs and music lessons are provided across the school.

Mr Hazell said that we are the only school who take a week to induct new pupils and we provide a school booklet which shares the vision for the school.

Parents felt that communication between the school and parents is excellent but said if this additional information is provided, it would be helpful.

Mr Hazell and Ms Allen said that the school booklet is updated twice a year and all current provisions are listed there.

Mr Hazell said that at times, the provisions differ and he would not like to say for example your child will be offered Spanish and clarinet and then it does not transpire as there is another focus.

Mr Hazell said there is a new school video which shows the different provision within the school which is to be uploaded to the school website. He also said that other short videos around music and clubs will follow in due course.

Closing points

- Ms Allen will get the PTA – school reps up and running
- Parent / carer involvement as resourcing could be key
- Mr Hazell says the office is there to answer questions and that there is a suggestions box
- Mr Jobson is the named person for clubs but when arranging for people to run them, the following need to be considered;
 - Health and Safety
 - DBS checks
 - Protocols
- The current music teaching provision is as follows;
 - Early Years and KS1 – Sue Khalil is providing lessons
 - KS2 – an outside organisation is providing quality provision part time
- The school has a parent resource that is supportive and wants to be utilised
- Every class has a worry box which will be mentioned to teachers in tomorrow's morning briefing

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