

Parents' Forum Meeting

Tuesday 12th November 2019 at 1:30pm

In attendance:

Kate Barnes	Headteacher	
Jayne Davies	Member of SLT	
Harriet Johnston	Clerk	
Kathryn James	Y3 Rep (3G)	
Becky Russell	Y3 Rep (3F)	
Heather Chuter	Y4 Rep (4T)	
Gemma Damon-Aspen	Y4 Rep (4H)	Did not attend
Kerryann Weeden	Y4 Rep (4RB)	Did not attend
MC	Y5 Rep (5M)	
Rasheed Meeran	Y5 Rep (5B)	Did not attend
Katie Kidd	Y6 Rep (6W)	(Chair)
Fleur Sinclair	Y6 Rep (6H)	
Claudia Lloyd	Y6 Rep	

The below items were discussed following the meeting in June 2019.

Possibility of shuffling classes at the end of Year 4.

A discussion took place with regard to the possibility of shuffling classes at the end of Year 4. KB said the decision has been made to leave the classes as they are however in the future if this needs to be addressed it will be and the Parent Forum and Governors will be notified.

Period Poverty

Parents discussed the possibility of supporting a charity similar to the Food Bank to help families with the cost of feminine hygiene. MC will reconnect with her contact to try and take this forward.

New items

1. Feedback on new SRE guidelines

KB spoke about how there will be a parents' information session in the Spring term where parents will be presented with the full scheme of work that will be taught during PSHE lessons. Certain elements such as puberty, menstruation and biology are part of the national curriculum and therefore parents cannot request their child to opt out of. However elements of the sex education curriculum can be opted out of. The main message with the new guidelines is about equality and how families can be made up of all different dynamics.

FS had concerns over the health section and how this would be taught. FS had concerns that stress isn't placed on the children with regards to them thinking that for example if they don't get enough sleep they won't be able to learn properly. KB said that we promote trying to achieve a healthy lifestyle in many different ways, such as through Healthy Living week and messages around this are always promoted in a positive and sensitive way.

MC said she had received concerns from two parents that Y5 is too young for sex education, but the concern was that if the child was opted out they may hear a different version of what was spoken about anyway from their peers. Parents would like to know dates that topics will be discussed so they would be able to support at home, and be ready for questions. MC also asked what age the drugs and alcohol education was taught and KB replied typically this was in Y6 however discussions around drugs/medicine began from Y3 for the safety of the children.

KB said parents in Y5 and Y6 will have the opportunity to watch any videos that their children will be viewing.

2. Power Hour

KB spoke about how we have intervention teachers at school Monday-Thursday to help children and typically this would be those children that are struggling and have the lower level of understanding about a certain topic. Since working with New Haw Junior School we have tried to adopt some of their ideas and processes and have since launched a 'Power Hour' where children who have been identified as having a gap in their knowledge (perhaps due to them being absent etc.) can receive some more specific teaching. If your child is placed in the 'Power Hour' they will typically do this for a time-limited period, during which time parents will be notified.

KJ said she thinks parents would be happy to receive a worksheet of things their child needs to focus on that week in order to help fill in the gaps of their learning – in line with 'Power Hour'. It could be that week they don't need to worry about the weekly project but instead learn the basics of something that they haven't yet understood. All agreed this was a good idea.

3. Frequency of sweet temptations at school gate (parent email)

It was discussed within the group if the school offers too many sweet treat opportunities and KB said that at the end of the Summer term we did have 5 'unhealthy' events such as cake sales and ice cream sales. FS said how these events raise a lot of money for the school and if you don't want your child to participate then it's not compulsory. KB said we will take this into consideration when planning events for the future.

4. Recycling crisp packet scheme (parent email)

JD had received an email about the school supporting the Walkers crisp recycling scheme. Used crisp packets are collected and then recycled by Walkers, which promotes recycling but also as a school helps us towards our Eco School badge. JD said she will ask the Eco team to look into this, as everyone agreed it would be a good idea.

5. Children not having the lunch they ordered (parent email)

A parent had emailed in with a concern as his Y6 child had on a couple of occasions not been able to have the lunch they had ordered by the time it got to their turn in the lunch queue (Y6 go to lunch last). KB is going to talk to children in assembly about looking after their lunch bands and trying to not lose them, and also reminding parents to tell us if their child does have any issues with lunches so we can run some spot checks.

6. As part of our child Mental Health audit, parents were asked for their input into what areas of Wellbeing they would value advice (e.g. sleep, healthy eating, screen time, relationships etc.)

JD is doing an audit, and would like the Parent Forum reps to ask parents what areas of wellbeing they have issues with, relating to their children. What advice do people want help with? Step 2 will then be to put an action plan together and run some workshops for parents/children. The school asked also if there were any parents who have specific skill sets who could come in and do a talk/workshop. KJ said a Dad in Y3 is training as a meditator and may be happy to come in and talk to parents and children about how meditation is beneficial. Everyone to review ready for the next meeting.

AOB

- KJ said the amount of homework expected of Y3s has been flagged to her as a concern as they are now being asked to do 6 grid exercises as opposed to 3. Parents feel this is too much.
- BR said she had heard from parents saying they were unhappy with the quality of the school jumpers. KB said if parents are unhappy to complain directly to Brigade, we are happy to get involved if the issue continues but in the first instance parents must speak with Brigade.
- Sue Hatley from the kitchen has offered to come in and speak during Parent's Forum about the school lunches, as she is concerned about the low uptake and would like help from us in boosting the numbers. She has suggested running a tasting session for children in the New Year or organising 'Wednesday Roasts' with parents and children.
- PTFA – it was mentioned that some parents have asked how they can get involved with the PTFA as it seems like it's all or nothing and parents either have to be in the PTFA and help lots or not at all. Whereas the feeling is that there are some parents who would happily help on a bit of an adhoc basis. There used to be a sign up sheet, so parents asked if the PTFA could look into this.
- 'Is learning helped by dressing up?' – this came in from a parent and possibly came off the back of the Y4 Stone Age workshop where children were asked to come to school dressed up. KB said she feels we must embrace all elements of learning, and that children love to immerse themselves in their learning. If parents are struggling with a costume please speak to the School Office and we will try and help find items from our costume cupboard. Parents however must remember that it isn't a competition and a homemade costume doesn't need to cost a lot of money.
- All Parent Forum reps to confirm with class reps who is required at Parents' Forum. There was some confusion around who was meant to be at the meeting.