

Parent Forum Meeting

Date: 30th January 2019

Time: 9.00am

Attending:

Mrs Marks
Mr Backett
J. Stone
R. Gribble
L. O'Brien
D. Mead
L. Pinner

Attending:

G. Pinner
J. Wells
N. Stonelake
J. Payne
M. King
R. Endley
S. Turner

General information:

Thank you very much to all who came to the parent forum meeting on Thursday. Following general feedback and the Parent Survey we shall aim to alter the day and time of the meetings from one session to the next so as many parents as possible have a chance to attend.

Minutes:

Parent Survey responses have suggested taking minutes of the meeting and sharing with everyone. We discussed this in the meeting. The aim is that it is an open forum to chat informally about various aspects of school life. To take formal minutes requires us to then gain agreement from all those who attended to ensure that each has been fairly and accurately represented. We would like this to be an open forum where people feel they are able to have constructive conversations and make suggestions. These will be recorded in a general discussion to share rather than specific detailed minutes. Everyone agreed that this was a good compromise.

Aspects discussed:

Communication

Overall it was felt that communication from the school is definitely improving. The Newsletter is seen as a positive with dates of upcoming events and the use of a different colour to show those dates that are new.

There can be confusion over the text and email messages as if you have a number of children, it is unclear which class it relates to.

Actions:

We shall introduce prefixing texts and emails with the class or group it is relevant to.

Parents felt that more information is always better. It can become confusing when there is a paper copy sometimes and email on other occasions. It is important to find a balance, printing letters is costly and not good for the environment. However, there are occasions when this is the best form of communication.

Actions:

All letters and information will be sent out via email, even if it is sent out as a paper copy. This doubles the chance of receiving it! We shall also put them on the website for people to access and print if required.

I shall put hyperlinks onto the newsletter linking to any additional letters, making it easier to locate all the information.

Some find that there are many different ways of us communicating and it can become confusing. Parents shared information on 'My Ed', an app which is a one stop shop for all school information. We shall look into this and see if it will meet our needs and is affordable.

One parent suggested using the calendar on the website.

<http://www.frenchayprimary.co.uk/events/>. We shall begin using this as soon as possible. We do place all newsletters on the website under 'News' <http://www.frenchayprimary.co.uk/news/> if you ever need them. The school calendar given out at the start of the year is also available on the website. <http://www.frenchayprimary.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/SCHOOL-CALENDAR-2018-19.pdf>

Actions:

Use the calendar on the website for sharing all important dates.

Progress

Another aspect that came from the Parent Survey was the parent's views on the information you are provided with on the progress your child is making. It was felt that in the past it has been more social and pastoral information that has been shared, rather than specifics on how well a child is doing and what the expectations are for the remainder of the year. Parents evening in October will focus on where they are academically and socially and how they have settled into class.

Actions:

February Parents Evening – All teachers will share information on the following in parents evening:

- Behaviour in / out of class
- Attitude towards learning
- The progress made since the start of the academic year, giving some specific examples.
- Where they are currently performing.
- Where it is hoped that they will be by the end of the academic year.
- What interventions or support they are receiving to achieve the end of year expectations.
- What parents can do to help at home.

Class and School trips

We had a brief discussion on this as time as running out in the meeting.

We would all like there to be one main trip per class each year and then smaller visits which are lower in cost, such as using the surrounding area. These trips significantly enhance the learning for all the children.

An aspect we wanted to know more about was the trip to the Panto. Most children really enjoy this but this year we had quite a number who were not keen to go. This then meant additional cost to the school for tickets that were not taken by the children. There are, as with all trips, a number of parents who do not pay. This is a voluntary contribution and so cannot be enforced. We are also not allowed to make a profit through trips, so cannot charge additional to cover any lost costs that might occur. This then in turn means that the school has to make up any shortfall. This academic year has seen a shortfall of **£316.08** which is then taken from our budget. As you are all aware, budgets are shrinking and we cannot afford to pay in this way. We feel that trips are an essential part of our children's learning but need to find a solution to this shortfall.

Actions:

Bring this topic up again at the next forum.

We need to consider:

Do we continue going to the Panto?

Alter to a different venue such as The Royal Theatre in Bath or the Redgrave Theatre in Redland,

Or stop going?

Do we have a pre-booking system where you indicate your interest early on prior to us purchasing tickets? (This is normally done in June time)

These are all questions we would appreciate your thoughts on at the next meeting. Or alternately we may do a Google form to find out more on your thoughts!

Next meeting:

3.40pm – 4.40pm (approx.) 30th April 2019