

Minutes for Parents' Forum Meeting 4

Held on 15.4.15 at 9.05am

Present:

Parent	Year groups represented
Ciaran Dodd	Years 3, 1
Ellie Burt	Reception(next year N)
Shaun McCartney	Year 2
Sally McMillan	Reception
Anna Jones	Assistant Head KS1 Year 5, 6 parents

1. Science Day Summer 2015.

AJ informed parents of the planned Science Day to be held on 20th May. Staff meeting to be held today to help teachers to plan in year groups for the activities. Further information about how the day went will be given in the next meeting.

2. Healthy Eating Week 2nd to 5th June

Planning time is being given to staff this half term to organise the activities for this week. CD asked about how we could give children and parents more information about foods rather than just giving out simple leaflets.

AJ explained we will be spending more time on information about the impact of eating different foods e.g. why do we need protein, fats, vitamins?

Miss Brown is going to ask Mr Edwards from Derby City Sports Partnership to come in during our sports activity day that we will be running on the Friday of the Healthy Eating Week. We had thought about doing the BHF Sponsored Skipathon, but we felt that we have asked for a lot of contributions for charities/ new reading books for school etc, and parents agreed that it would be better to have a break from requesting more sponsorship money.

EB/CD and AJ discussed food programmes that have been on TV recently to raise awareness of what is in your food. Could a note be sent out or put on the learning platform with suggestions for parents to watch?

SM asked if we have plans as a school to ask families about the impact of this healthy eating week- AJ to organise a brief questionnaire to be sent out at the end of the half term to see whether this work has made a difference at home for pupils and families.

3. Homework Policy for KS2 and minimum expectations regarding reading/ spellings etc.

Mrs Halliday will be organising a brief questionnaire for parents to gauge parent opinions on current homework expectations. This will mainly be for Upper KS2

parents, as we have not got a large representation of parents from Year 5 or 6 in parents' forum.

Minimum expectations for reading have been discussed in Key Stage 2- staff felt that to have diaries signed at least twice a week as a minimum would be acceptable. In Key Stage 1 at least three times a week as a minimum expectation. Parents questioned whether pupils in Upper KS2 need to read aloud to a parent, AJ explained that you use different parts of the brain when reading aloud, so it develops different skills for the child, but that it is more about promoting reading, getting pupils engaged in regular homework as preparation for their move to secondary school.

Mrs Gerver has agreed that perhaps a crib sheet with ideas for questions you might ask your child about their reading book or ideas for things to write about in the parents comments section of the reading diaries would be useful. AJ will liaise with Mrs Hilton and Mrs Wildsmith to see if there is something available or to design one. This will be shared at the next Parents' Forum meeting on 3rd June.

4. **Computing update-**

● **E-Safety training- did anyone attend?**

No members of parents' forum were able to attend the training, but SM noted that he had a contact who works with pupils in Year 6 and KS3 regarding safe use of Facebook etc, to show the children the impact of geo-tagging and fake profiles etc. SM will forward the details to school so that we can see if this could be booked for Year 6 classes.

Mrs Whittingham and Mrs Halliday had attended along with 18 parents from Mickleover. Ideas from this information session will be used to help plan future parents information workshops.

● **Resources and new curriculum**

Question from CD:

On computing, I heard a really interesting programme on how important learning to code as well as use software will be important skills for the future. This was something that was mentioned: <https://www.codeclub.org.uk/> - might be useful. Also: <https://www.raspberrypi.org/>

CD had asked about the amount of coding work that we are meant to expect?

AJ showed the long term overview for computing and the e-safety expectations. We discussed Scratch, and AJ briefly talked about how we use this to teach the children coding. Parents from Forum encouraged to download this free software and have a go at home to program your own 'Scratch sprite.'

● **Learning Platform**

All staff who have been less confident with using the learning platform have been given training by Mrs Clennell, who is now responsible for the Learning Platform. Pupils in Year 2, for example, were set homework for the Easter holidays on the platform and lessons to reintroduce the Learning Platform to children have been put in to action this week.

5. **Healthy Schools-**

● New menus

Parent feedback is that new menus are going down well with pupils, children are still really happy with choice and amount of food given. The pupils eating school dinners like being able to sit with their friends if they are on sandwiches, as it has really made a positive impact this year on friendship groups.

● Eating area

AJ explained that Mr Goodwin and Mrs Powell have been looking into the possibility of putting in an outside seating area with a canopy for shade into the playground, so that in the summer pupils will be able to choose to sit outside on warmer days. This has been put into the long term plan for school and should be actioned within the next twelve months. This will also support the school's pledge to become a Level 1 accredited 'Sun Safe' school, as we have signed up to this as part of the Colin Bloomfield Radio 1 Melanoma Appeal.

Parents asked if whether in the short term pupils could have picnic rugs or some of the folding tables from the dinner hall outside.

AJ discussed this with Mrs Gerver who has explained that Miss Evans already organises picnic rugs for pupils in the summer, so that they can sit in the grass area near the playground and have sandwiches. This will not currently be extended to pupils who have dinners because of the distance from the lunch hall that pupils would have to travel with their trays.

● Cooking Club

Cooking Club is starting this week for 16 pupils in Year 6. It is being run by Mr Goodwin, catering manager, with support from some of his catering team. Many thanks to the staff involved, we will see if this has been successful in the next meeting.

● Gardening Club

To move forward our School Garden proposal, a small club will be set up from next week for pupils in KS2. A long term plan for the development of the garden will be set up by AJ with support from Mr Goodwin. FOMPS have offered to support the Gardening Club to purchase tools etc that might be needed, but we will ask for donations from parents for unwanted tools first and then do a plan to see the viability of a greenhouse and watering system.

AOB

Local Clubs for children:

CD asked about the local Brownie Pack (6th Mickleover) who is struggling for members. It is a great pack that organises lots of great activities. Is there a way we could promote it in school as it is local?

AJ has suggested that the leaders of the group and the leaders of the local cubs might be invited in to talk about the clubs in assembly.

Mrs Gerver has said that any local clubs for pupils are welcome to put a leaflet in the community board outside the front of school.

Sally McM asked about the impact on school of possible resources from the Sun Safe campaign- will be one of the schools receiving hats and sunscreen dispensers, and if so, what is the long term cost implication for school in terms of providing sun cream for next year? AJ explained that Mrs Harrison had been very pro-active in signing the school up early for the scheme, that we have had leaflets sent to us to give to pupils about being safe in the sun, but that we have not yet heard about any other resources or equipment that we might be receiving.

Also, regarding **book donations to school**. Sally McM wondered if parents might be encouraged to give more donations to school for books to help replenish class libraries and home reading books by all parents being given a donations bag, such as the ones that are given out to collect clothing for charity. All members of the forum felt that this would be a great idea, as it would quite rightly encourage parents to give the books to school rather than giving them away.

AJ discussed this with Mrs Gerver, who felt that although in principle the idea was very positive, it would be important to ensure that the books that are donated are in an appropriate condition, suitability and match the needs of school, so perhaps we could have a donation day or ask specific year groups one at a time to donate books which could then be sifted through by school- perhaps on the last parents forum of the year we could arrange a donations day and then spend some of the meeting sorting the books?

Finally, sun cream: ED asked whether there is a standard letter that goes out to inform parents about whether sun cream should be applied before children come to school or parents should be sending sun cream in to be reapplied during the day? Also, when should hats be brought into school.

AJ checked with office staff- a letter usually is sent out/ reminders put on the newsletter. However, as part of our sun safe schools work this term, a letter will be going out to all parents before next week with a booklet about sun safety. AJ to organise and distribute to classes.

Please note: I will be sending the brief statements and photos that I have been given so far for members of Parents' Forum to Mrs Powell for the website. If you have written your statement, chosen your photo would you mind emailing me so that I can forward these on to the office for the website.

Dates of Future Meetings:

Wednesday 3rd June 9.05am

Wednesday 1st July 9.05am