

Parents' Forum Minutes 12.11.19

Meeting commenced **9.10 am**

(Please note, meeting had to be moved from last week's original date)

Attended:

Helen B (Year 2), Iffat B (Rec), Ellie B (Year 3, Year 5), Lisa N (Year 2), Mrs Jones (Assistant Head KS1)

Anti-bullying and mental health week

Mrs Jones shared with forum the work we have begun on our Mental Health Carnegie Award for Schools.

This week we are hosting a theme week based on:

Anti-bullying including cyber-bullying and staying safe online.

Mental Health and Wellbeing.

Whole School Book Week based on 'Sweep.'

Forum members were asked to review the updated anti-bullying guidance leaflet for parents, which has been updated to include some basic information about how to support pupils with mental health at home.

These leaflets will be going out to families tonight.

Forum were pleased that we are addressing mental health in school and that they appreciate having the guide in the leaflet as to who to contact if they need support for their child.

HB asked about what the school is planning to do to support staff when working with pupils with more extreme issues of anxiety. EB asked if we might be able to produce a leaflet for parents with ways to identify anxiety and how to help children at home?

Mrs Jones to ask Mrs Halliday if we can do this as part of our award.

All forum members completed a parent questionnaire regarding mental health and wellbeing. These forms were given to Mrs Halliday to join the others completed by parents on parents' evenings just before half term.

Cyber-bullying and e-safety

Today in school all pupils are learning about e-safety and cyberbullying. Pupils will work with their class to think about how to treat others online and our motto for the day is 'Don't be mean behind the Screen.'

Forum asked if there would be a possibility of school running a refresher workshop on how to set parental controls on devices? Two meetings were held last year, both from LEAD IT who provide our IT support in school, but Mrs Jones explained that both meetings only had small numbers of parents attending.

Mrs Clennell, our Computing Co-ordinator, will contact Lead IT to organise a refresher session later this year.

Communication between parents and staff- parents forum have asked if it might be possible to make sure that reminders are sent out whenever possible to parents about events in school, particularly for major things like the phonics workshop last week where the event is taking place straight after a holiday as these dates can be easily missed.

Action: Mrs Jones to ask office to make sure a reminder is sent out for any workshops or events as protocol and also see if we might be able to use the board at the front of school more effectively to highlight key dates for parents.

Again parents' forum have asked if we could raise with junior staff the possibility of them using class dojo, as this has been a really effective tool in the infants and has been essential for support where pupils are suffering from anxiety or friendship issues and helps parents to keep informed of learning in the classroom.

Action: Mrs Jones will raise the benefits of class dojo with junior staff, but ultimately Mrs Gerver has said that she feels that KS2 staff have the right to decide if they use it or not. This will be reviewed on an annual basis. Infant staff will continue to use dojo.

IB asked about the protocol in school for parents' evenings and reports to parents, as Reception parents have not been made aware of what information they will receive or when parents' meetings will take place during the year.

Action: Mrs Jones to talk to Mrs Whittingham so that we can include this in our introductory meetings for parents when their child joins school.

Pantomime- following feedback from Parents' Forum last asking if we would be able to arrange a panto visit for the children we have organised for West End in Schools to come in and perform 'Cinderella' for the pupils on Weds 4th December. We are really excited to be able to offer this for a small cost per pupil and hopefully will be able to make it an annual event if it proves popular this year.

Letters going out to parents tonight.

Roast Dinner Day 13th November

As part of our work with the community, Year 5 ambassadors will be having lunch tomorrow with residents from Curzon Court for Roast Dinner Day. If anyone has any contact with other community groups that we could invite in please let us know.

Lisa to contact Catterick Drive Hub (Kelly Court and Madeley Court) to get us a contact person to invite residents to lunch from these care homes.

Extra-curricular music opportunities in school

Forum have said they love that music is so important here at MPS, they love that the children have a chance to go to choir in the juniors and that Year 5 have a chance to learn a brass instrument from this year. They have asked if we have any plans to run any music opportunities in the infants for children. Mrs Jones explained that we usually have infant choir and recorders, but with Mrs Branch being on maternity leave this has not been possible so far this year.

Action: Mrs Jones to see if Mrs Watson would be able to run a KS1 Choir some time this year for pupils.

Actions for forum members for the next meeting:

Please ask your friends who have children at other schools what their schools do to support pupils with regards to mental health and wellbeing. If there is any information that they have been sent could you bring a copy to the next meeting so that we can discuss? All Derby City schools have been asked to complete this award and we are one of the last schools to have joined the accreditation process, so there may well be other schools that are further on than us.

Also, if any of your friends have attended any parents workshops this year from other schools preparing for the new Relationships and Health Education statutory requirements please could you share with us in the next meeting?

Also, on the school website we have a Parents' Forum section- could you please write a short description about yourself and why you have decided to join forum and if possible send it electronically with a photo of yourself for the forum section- we try to encourage this so that other parents know that they can come to you to raise any issues if they are unable to attend meetings themselves.

Thank you.

Meeting finished 10:15am

Date of next meeting is Tuesday 7th January