

Parent Body meeting

15th March 2:00 pm, Small Hall

Attendees: Miss Fullagar – Deputy, Mrs Skinner – Headteacher, Mrs Hogan – Governor, Ryan Charman, Steph Rowberry, Sally Fuller, Mary Brezeanu, Wendy Rosewell, Dena Blake, Rachael Cant, Justine Bruce, Michelle Humphrey, Mrs Whitehead - PA

Apologies: Stacey Tilsley, Sarah Arthrell, Katherine Greenwood, Heidi Smith.

Agenda Items

| 1 | Agenda item | School Feedback |
|---|--|---|
| 1 | Welcome | |
| 2 | Cash collection | <p>Carly Smith from Principals attended the meeting along with Tracy who does the cash collecting.</p> <p>Talked about the healthy school's policy and puddings for school dinners. Occasional treats as part of lunch are OK.</p> <p>Parents wanted clarification on when a payment is overdue and what constitutes a debt? Not supposed to feed them after two missed payments, but ethically the school finds this difficult.</p> <p>1 meal unpaid £2.25– a slip goes home in the child's bag 2 meals unpaid £4.50 - letter goes home</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cash collector send letters home, but they get left in the children's bags. There are problems online with payments. Cash collector has found text messages have worked better. • Principals have advised that there is an arrears button where parents can pay up to ten meals that are overdue. If children miss a meal, but parents have paid in advance, the money will be carried over. The online system is just a record of the amounts paid in, there is no weekly allocation. Parents need to keep a track of the meals their children are having. It does not show on the online system if a child has not eaten. It is purely an automated system operating for 160 schools in total, not just Brunswick House. • There are repeat offenders; parents do not appreciate that meals should be paid for a week in advance. At the end of each term the outstanding debt is passed onto the school to pay as part of the agreed contract with Principals. The school has so far paid out £248.45 for unpaid school dinners in the last financial year. This money could be spent on other things within the school and put towards books and additional resources for the children instead. • There is always a fruit and salad trolley available every lunch-time for children. They do have sponge puddings etc which are homemade on the school premises. Children have the option to choose this, as well as yoghurts. • School do state no fizzy drinks or chocolate bars in packed lunch, but are not averse to the occasional treat. Put things into perspective as we all like to eat the odd pudding, just not every day. It is not just down to the school, but also down to parenting and how parents are educating their children on healthy eating. The Healthy Eating policy is not a statutory policy; parental choice is paramount. The school menu is provided for all and on the Principals website, so parents can opt out of meals on the days they do not wish their child to have a pudding. |
| 3 | Supporting children's emotional needs | <p>Parents wanted to mention that the school has many things that they put in place for children with emotional needs. They are as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oasis Club – children are allowed to stay in over lunch with other children who may have had a bad day and wish to have a quieter lunch. They have KS1 and KS2 children; play board games, colouring etc. • Secret Agents, Special Agents and Mini Agents – These groups teach the children coping strategies (for children who experience anxiety, anger issues or who simply lack confidence). These include up to six sessions in small groups of an hour a week, where children have access to talk openly to others in similar situations and it helps children realise they are not alone. These sessions help them to bond with other children and raise their self-esteem. • Lego Therapy – Groups of three children are put together to construct a Lego model. One child reads the instructions; the other two have to work together with the child |

| | | |
|----|---|---|
| | | <p>reading the instructions. It helps children with sharing and working together towards a common goal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play Therapy – A play therapist visits the school twice a week and this is what some of the school's allocated budget pays for. It assists children who are in difficult emotional situations. It has been incredibly beneficial to the pupils that have used this service. <p>Parents felt that the school should advertise this more widely to the school community to demonstrate the many positive things they do towards helping the children on a social and emotional basis. It was agreed that we should look to advertise this on the schools website.</p> |
| 4 | Handwriting | <p>By the end of key stage two (end of year 6), to reach the expected level in writing, children have to be able to join their writing.</p> <p>The English leader is currently looking at how effectively we are embedding this from FS onwards. In Foundation stage, children look at letter formation and in year 1, children join up the letters.</p> <p>We teach handwriting daily and there are additional groups as well where children need additional help/reinforcement of skills.</p> |
| 5 | Home Learning | <p>Home Learning is creative, involves modelling, say solar systems, drawing etc and this is linked to the curriculum. Not every topic can lend itself creatively in terms of art work, modelling etc, quite difficult in Maths. Home learning is there to reinforce what they are learning in school.</p> <p>2017 questionnaire – where we consulted parents, pupils and staff – all liked the collaborative Home learning but were not so keen on the points system.</p> <p>Based on curriculum content for that term</p> <p>Mathletics is a part of home learning</p> <p>Year 6 have additional home learning linked to English and maths</p> <p>We do not set work that children cannot access because they have not been taught it yet.</p> <p>Spellings – we responded – Term 5 KS1 and 2 will all get spellings in the same format look, cover, write, say sheet or spellings with activities in KS2</p> |
| 6 | Trips | <p>All trips and visitors are planned for the year</p> <p>This includes Library and Maidstone Museum – workshops included</p> <p>Specialists come in; we also have things like the Space Dome.</p> <p>Cost for parents has to be considered, hence more visitors and local trips as coach company prices have sky rocketed in recent years. The cost of the coach to transport children to swimming for example is why the cost for swimming is incurred. If the children could walk to their swimming lessons, it would be free. Three/four trips in one year have been considered too much in some cases, when the children go to overnight trips for Bushcraft (year 4) and PGL (Year 6).</p> <p>The school also accrues a debt on every trip as not all parents make the payments.</p> <p>Secondary School links also provides us with curriculum enrichment opportunities.</p> |
| 7 | Reading Records | <p>Yes, we have them.</p> <p>They should be checked weekly – this seems to be a single class issue and we are addressing this in a staff meeting</p> |
| 8 | Provision for more able children | <p>You don't teach higher curriculums in your own year group-digging deeper-greater depth</p> <p>Children are identified for 'talented' activities in a variety of ways and signposted to opportunities if we do not have the capacity to provide them in school. The focus is very much now ensuring the children have the understanding of what they are learning and why, checking their foundation knowledge and knowing why/how things happen the way they do as opposed to just learning the rules. Mastery is the key.</p> |
| 9 | Healthy School Policy | <p>It is about educating our children in terms of lifestyle, sport and choices, not just about their food choices. How to combine a healthy lifestyle so that the children are equipped emotionally to make healthier choices.</p> |
| 10 | Email response times | <p>Leaders try to respond within three working days to acknowledge and by five working days with a more full response if required, or by phone.</p> <p>If this is not the case, please let us know. School office email is used to disseminate the class teacher emails.</p> |
| 11 | Parent Body Rep for Scotney | <p>Steph Rowberry is leaving and so the role of class representative will be need to be filled.</p> <p>This will go through the normal nomination and election process in due course. The forum thanked Mrs Rowberry for all her assistance.</p> |

Next Parent Body Meeting –11th May