

Governor Drop-in issues raised (16/2/18)

Yvette chairing, 2 Governors present, 4 parents

Topics raised

General mention that morale in school -amongst parents - feels much improved.

The school is pleased to hear this

One parent raised a continuing concern that there are now reduced opportunities for interaction with teachers and for coming into school generally. There used to be regular in-class events organised by teachers which involved and were opportunities to engage with parents and these no longer seem to occur regularly. Key plea for more opportunities for face to face time with teachers. An additional note that the automated email system does not always appear to work. **Action:**

School/Office to respond

Mark sent out a communications letter at the start of the year outlining all the many opportunities for parents / carers to interact with staff (including teachers) and to be involved with the school.

The school used to run an Autumn and Spring term drop in session for parents a couple of years ago which stopped when the school went through its restructure. The take up was mixed – better lower down than higher up. This is something which we may review for the future.

Mark has checked the automated responses and as far as he is aware they are all working fine.

A parent asked if they might please be invited to the Diversity Role Model in school. **Action: School to respond**

This would not be appropriate. However, we are only too happy to sit down with parents and explain what we are covering in class.

In the spirit of showing their appreciation all parents present wanted to express their appreciation of Haseeb in particular for all that he does for the children and the inspiring manner in which he does this. Sophie too, in the office, was very warmly received by parents and long-standing teaching assistant Mary is recognised by very many parents as ‘amazing’ for the care and attention she gives to every child; her PAC book comments are second to none. **Action: School to pass on appreciation**

The school is grateful for this feedback and passed this on to relevant staff.

A Year 3 parent asked for further clarification on the homework policy as a maths worksheet is now being issued to children weekly. There was some discussion about the lack of feedback then given to children completing the work; this remains a parental concern. **Action: School/LAC to respond**

As stated in the H/W policy, math’s worksheets are given out on a weekly basis, with the exception of Y6 who use Haggarty maths – an online resource.

A parent further asked about how assessments are marked and what feedback is then given to children about these. They were advised to raise this at open evening with their class teacher.

A Year 6 parent raised concerns about the school’s focus on SATS. They feel the exclusion of creativity and play causes anxiety and pressure amongst the children when SATS are supposed to be a measure of the school not the child. **Action: School/LAC to respond**

The school works hard to protect the children from the pressure of SATs. We retain a broad and balanced curriculum in both Y2 and Y6. Whilst we recognize that SATs are important, we aim to keep them in perspective and minimize any impact on the children.

Some discussion about the PTA consultation about how PTA funds spent – PTA circular and meeting to follow.

Premises issues – concerns regarding inadequate locks on toilet doors, ongoing litter issue and concern that clothing left out even in the rain. **Action: Premises committee I to respond**

Inadequate locks - The toilets have been replaced over the summer holidays and now have adequate locks.

Ongoing Litter issue - Tom and Derek are conducting a weekly litter sweep of the playgrounds.

Clothes left out in the rain - Children are encouraged to collect in clothes every playtime and lunchtime. Unfortunately, the school does not have the capacity to pack away and store clothes at the end of each day.

A parental plea for a gardening club to be established. **Action: School to respond**

Mark has mentioned this to Sophie who is looking into this.

Suggestion that a resource base of parental skills (Skills in our community) be set up so that teachers and staff can access and call on appropriate and readily available help when needed. **Action: Eliane (PTA Chair) will kick start this.**

Emily (Arts Lead) has been in touch with Eliane and passed on any information which the school currently holds.

A parent asked if the school might better avoid (and protect the children especially from) use of unnecessary educational jargon and officious language eg asking KS1 children to produce a 'non-chronological report' and referring without explanation to 'integrated learning'. **Action: School to respond**

This is a good point and something which will be shared with staff.

A parent issued a general plea for improved relations and a better spirit of cooperation and trust between teachers and parents. **Action: School to discuss**

The school prides itself on building positive and supportive relationships with parents. Relationships with parents / carers are built on mutual trust and cooperation and where this breaks down, the school works hard to restore this. On a related note, the school is aware that there have been some issues arising from curriculum meetings at the start of each year. As a result, the school has trialled a different approach this year to facilitate better communication and opportunities for 1:1 interaction with parents/carers.

A parent raised concerns about regular film watching in class as 'time wasted'. **Action: School to respond**

This is something which isn't encouraged. Children are allowed to watch appropriate videos during wet LTs and occasionally short video clips as part of their learning in class. This will continue to be monitored carefully.

An additional issue was raised by a parent outside of the meeting. The parent is concerned that by charging for clubs we have reduced the numbers of children taking part evidenced by repeated calls for attendees for the drumming club and spaces in previously over-subscribed clubs. Could we please provide some feedback on this? Has charging resulted in reduced take-up and thereby reduced opportunities for some children? **Action: School/Finance committee to respond.**

This has been hard to establish as we don't have complete records detailing how many children attended previously. However, most clubs are currently oversubscribed. If anything, the take up of clubs would appear to have increased, since the charges came into place.

The repeated calls surrounding the drumming incident arose as a result of a miscommunication – nothing more than that.

If parents/carers have an issue with the charge, the school had encouraged them to contact Sophie in the office to see what support can be provided. So far, this offer has not been taken up.

We do recognise that with reduced staffing, there are one or two clubs which we haven't been able to keep running e.g. film club and cookery club.