

Parent Voice 15th October 2019 9am-10am – Pastoral Centre

Attendees:

GJ (Head teacher), AH (Pastoral Leader), Parents - RD, LT, JF, DS, GE

The meeting was opened by AH, parents welcomed.

Minutes of the previous meeting on 15th October were agreed by all. Dates for all future meetings have been set for the year and this will continue into the next academic year as follows:

Wednesday 4th March

Wednesday 6th May

Wednesday 1st July

(all meetings will be held in the Beechfield Bungalow at 9am)

Actions from the previous meeting were discussed:

- 1. NMi to liaise with B&Q and Harrods**
NMi was not present to be able to feedback on any liaison with B&Q & Harrods.
- 2. NMa to identify parent volunteers for the next meeting**
NMa was also not present to be able to feedback on parent volunteers.
- 3. AH to advertise the parental coffee mornings and parent courses as necessary in the Newsletter**
Parental Coffee mornings were taking place every Wednesday in the Bungalow between 9am and 10am. They are advertised weekly in the Newsletter but the group is small, however very significant. It was that group that sparked the idea of the Christmas Kindness appeal and led to the Community Carol Concert at the school for residents of a local Care Home. The Care Home were very keen to maintain contact with the school and attend other events over the year.
- 4. AH to ensure our Newsletter directs parents to our website for contact email addresses of teachers**
All teacher emails are on the school website and JF has found that teachers respond to queries very quickly.
- 5. AH/GJ to talk about the Pastoral Centre to children in assembly**
GJ has spoken with the children in assembly re the Bungalow (pastoral centre).
- 6. GJ to look into videos to show the children re jobs and disabilities**
GJ will look into this.

7. AH/GJ to create a workshop for parents on all the wellbeing work being done by the school including Nurture UK, 5 ways to Wellbeing, Zones of Regulation, Protective Behaviours and Attachment Awareness (all these all interlink and underpin all that the school does for the children)

AH is considering a half termly workshop during the parental coffee mornings to try and get more parents involved in the school and understanding the work the school are doing around pastoral care. Several parents are currently attending the Protective behaviours course and would be keen to feedback to other parents on the course on complete.

8. Date of next meeting to be confirmed before the end of Autumn Term to feedback on progress.

Dates for all further meetings this academic term are detailed above.

AH/GJ discussed the passage way/path and gate leading into the school being too narrow and busy and in the winter, it is muddy making it very difficult to pass on. AH confirmed that we had a quote for Mulch (environmentally friendly option) but it was high (approx. £7,000). GJ said that there is a Government fund called a SIF which you have to bid for and she is waiting to hear back if the bid was successful. However, the school would be required to still pay some money towards the project. The result of the bid would be known in March. GJ has also bid for money to knock down a wall in nursery.

AH announced that RD had successfully bid for money to transform the garden of the Bungalow, although we bid for £2,000 we had been successful in securing £1,000. Meeting to take place once the money has been given to decide on priority expenditure. AH would like parents and staff to volunteer 1 day in the Easter holidays to come in and do the work once the materials have been purchased. Refreshments etc. to be provided. AH is seeking help from her brother working for Santander who do community/discovery days and will come in with staff for 1 day to assist with the work. LT thought she may also be able to get assistance from the Watford housing community team.

RD queried if the school had written to thank Burstons garden centre for their donation of plants, GJ will arrange this and perhaps get the children to write something also.

- **New PHSE Programme – Jigsaw**

GJ was keen to get parental views on the sex education side of the curriculum. GJ was able to explain the programme in more detail – the whole school did PHSE at the same time on the same day (Wednesday morning), this half term focussing on dreams and goals. It gives the whole school the opportunity to participate, as it is discussion based and for everyone to give their opinion if they wish. There is also clear progression from what is taught on a topic from Reception through to Y6. The children will all be taught about relationships and different families, nothing is being promoted, it is all based on tolerance and acceptance of difference and challenging stereotypes. The sex education side is not statutory however the feeling of the group was that Y5/6 would be the right time to begin educating children regarding this area i.e reproduction. One of the difficulties identified was the differing maturity levels of children and also between boys and girls of the same year group. However, the group felt children need to be receiving the correct information in order to

protect themselves and be prepared for Secondary school. GJ said that in the Summer term there will be a presentation to parents which will be very specific about what is being taught in which year group so parents are fully aware of what their child(ren) is being taught and when.

- **Parent engagement app – Marvellous Me**

JF said she was really happy with it and that the children loved it. Parents found it very helpful. However, there was clear disparity between teachers and year groups as to how much and how often it was used. DS said she was able to discuss things with her children as she knew what they had been learning which was useful. However, there had been a mix up with incorrect work being shown to the wrong parent and some children were deflated if their parents had not got a Marvellous Me notification which could cause friction at home. GJ will look across the whole school and ensure that it is being used by every teacher correctly so there was more consistency in use.

- **Parental coffee mornings**

Parental coffee mornings now take place weekly in the Bungalow from 9 to 10am. In the future they will have a focus to try and get more parent/carers to attend. However, they are enjoyed by all who attend (see above 7.)

- **AOB**

GJ advised that there will be a parent survey this year and suggestions of what should be included were; preferred means of communication, when are parents able to attend school, what is positive about the school, what 1 piece of advice would they give the school to improve things. It was also felt that there should be a guide as to who parents need to contact for certain situations and how to do this.

GJ reports that the school has its highest number for a number of years – 405 children enrolled.

There is also a careers event next Friday (29th January) for Y6 children. Parents suggested a whole school careers event where parents could attend to discuss their careers including the teachers. This could be done in some form of carousel in classrooms.

DS mentioned reading Eggs – GJ would look to try and budget for this in the future.

RD mentioned that locally there was going to be parking permits which might affect the school but possibly not on Gammons Lane.

Actions:

1. GJ to feedback on the outcome of the SIF bid
2. AH to arrange parent workshops in due course
3. AH/RD to feedback on the pastoral garden funding
4. GJ to arrange Burstons thank you letter
5. GJ to review Marvellous Me use across the school