

Parent Voice Wednesday 23rd September 2020 9.30-10.20 – Zoom

Attendees:

MC (Assistant Head teacher), AH (Pastoral Leader), Parents - RD, HT & GE

The meeting was opened by AH, everyone introduced themselves. Meetings to be held on zoom due to coronavirus restrictions in school. No meeting was able to take place in the summer term due to school going into Lockdown on 23rd March 2020. School remained open for vulnerable children including through all holidays (Easter and Half Term).

- **1. Minutes from last meeting to be agreed:**

Minutes of the previous meeting on 4th March were agreed by all (these had been emailed with the zoom details to parents prior to the meeting). All minutes of previous meetings are held on the school website along with all meetings dates until the end of the academic year.

- **2. Review Actions from previous meeting:**

Actions from the previous meeting in March were discussed prior to the actions from the January meeting:

1. **Emails/newsletter/text messages to go home in due course re what recycled goods we need for the Pastoral Garden Project:**

This project is not on hold until coronavirus restriction ease.

2. **AH to arrange parent workshops for summer term if possible or to discuss topics with parents in the Coffee & Chat Mornings.**

Once coronavirus restriction ease, AH will look at doing this, hopefully next year.

3. **AH/RD to continue to feedback on the Pastoral Garden Project**

This project is not on hold until coronavirus restriction ease

4. **GJ to arrange Bustons thank you letter**

Completed.

5. **GJ will feed back on the SIF bid as the result will be known at the end of March**

MC reported that we had been unsuccessful in our bid.

6. **NMa will look at advertising what will be being made in advance at the 'Coffee and Craft' mornings to try and drum up attendance and support**

Coffee and Craft mornings were advertised but unfortunately school closed due to lockdown. Coffee mornings are continuing to take place via zoom every Wednesday 9.30-10am.

7. **GJ will speak to the Teaching staff re a Whatsapp group for each class for parents**

This was not completed due to lockdown but is something to consider and was raised in AOB.

8. **GJ to look into computing in Y2**

This was not completed due to lockdown but GJ can report back at the next meeting.

9. GJ to liaise with Gavin from Apex re use of equipment for VE Day celebrations. VE Day Meeting will be arranged with GJ. Date of meeting to follow for those interested in helping support this day.

Unfortunately all celebrations were unable to go ahead due to school closure.

10. AH will feed back further on the Salvation Army Project – recycle with Michael.

This project will remain on hold until coronavirus restrictions ease and AH will look to do this in the summer term.

- **Home/school communication:**

HT expressed what great communication there was between the school and home during lockdown. Everyone agreed that the school communicated well throughout the pandemic including when school was reopening and the plans were thorough.

HT said it was hard to speak to the teachers now due to the systems in place but that teachers are responding very quickly to emails. MC mentioned that the 'Meet the Teacher' presentations are on the website for parents to see. One comment was that could there be videos on the website for parents to see with teachers modelling how children are taught certain things such as methods in maths etc so parents are better able to support their children at home – MC will look into this.

RD said that communication had been brilliant over lockdown and she cannot praise staff highly enough for all they did to support children/families. She liked that all forms of social media were used – Twitter, FaceBook etc. She found her daughters teacher (RM) to be continually enthusiastic and positive throughout the pandemic and focussed always on what her daughter could do and not what she couldn't. This in turn helped mum to look at the positives not negatives. RM continued to give MarvellousMe's out which also helped to motivate her daughter. She also commented that the school re opening plans were excellent – clear and concise and she always knew exactly what was going to be happening. HT agreed with this. GE liked all the learning and the contact between teachers and pupils. She queried if it would have been possible for the teacher to arrange a Zoom with all the children more for a social thing than any learning as children were missing their friends. MC said that Herts County Council had advised the school against using zoom and that was why we hadn't been able to do that. However, with all new technology to keep us in touch this would be considered if there were any further lockdown.

Everyone thought the phone calls home by teachers to children were great. In particular KN taking time to speak happily to children for some time and parents mentioned this had not been replicated by other schools locally. RD also asked RM to video call her daughter during a particularly difficult day and RM was happy to do this and responded immediately to support her daughter.

- **Homework:**

HT felt that homework was valuable and she wanted more homework given so she could support her child especially with 'missed' education due to lockdown. She asked if the homework could include how to teach what is being asked. She gave an example of 1 less or

1 more than a number. She did this with her son at home but in school he was confused by the terminology, which was different from the teacher. She felt it would also be helpful to know what is being taught and what they want the children to know.

MC will look into having short videos on the website of how to teach aspects so that parents can use the same methods and terminology at home. HT also likes to have something to do with her son after school so he does not sit watching TV etc. She also felt that homework was valuable more so now than ever due to lockdown and that if parents work with their children it would ease teacher workload and support the child's learning. MC would look into spellings for Y1 and report back to HT. HT also said she had spoken to other Y1 parents who wanted more homework sent home and more variety.

RD had 2 opinions re homework – first that she did not agree with it but having said that she felt it was important for her daughter to have homework. She liked that the new teacher would allow her daughter to bring 'learning' home to complete if she had not completed it in lessons instead of missing her break times to complete work. She also felt that with the home learning over lockdown, she knew where her child had problems and could tailor work to support those areas to develop/support her child. Everyone liked the idea of a 'here's what you could do approach' i.e parents knowing what was being taught in school and finding ways to support this learning in other ways such as practically outside of the home etc.

GE said she was expecting a lot more homework in Y3 but she was concentrating on timetable, spellings and reading but she would like to know more about what is being covered in the lessons. She also had nowhere to record things they had done outside of reading etc.

- **5. Home support for pupils:**

See above. Parents have asked for videos from teachers to show the methods used in maths so they can do the same at home as often parents have been taught very differently from their children. MC to look into this. GE also said a brief sheet on what are verbs, adverbs, subordinate clauses are would be useful to help parents understand what their children are being taught. MC to look into this.

- **6. AOB:**

Concerns were expressed by parents that some families experienced difficulties in lockdown ranging from a lack of technology (such as no access to the internet or no laptop) to having 4 children and not being able to do learning with them all to parents having to work from home etc. The various things the school did to support these issues were detailed such as loaning out laptops to home delivery of learning to printing out learning to delivering food parcels etc. Parents were concerned that if lockdown happened again that they would need support and that there should be a Parent Support Group. This had been mentioned in the previous minutes with regards to a Whatsapp group for parents. This will be passed onto the Head Teacher.

- **Actions:**

1. MC to liaise with Head re videos of methods to be added to the website for parents to access.
2. Parents will report back on the website at the next meeting.
3. Head to consider that if there is a further lockdown can zoom be used so children can see their friends.
4. MC to ensure website details what is being taught and how it is taught plus details of verbs etc for parents to have.
5. MC to speak to Y1 and give HT spellings.
6. Head to consider trying to get a Whatsapp parent group for each class in motion – useful for information and also for parents to support one another if there is a further lockdown.