

Parent Voice Wednesday 20th October 2021 9-10am in the Bungalow

Attendees:

Gillian Jackson (Head Teacher), AH (Pastoral Leader), Parents – RD, NM & CF.

Apologies:

Tanya Mortlock (Assistant Head Teacher).

The meeting was opened by AH.

1. Minutes from last meeting to be agreed:

Minutes of the previous meeting on 23rd June 2021 were agreed (these are all held on the school website).

2. Actions from previous meeting:

- (A) GJ to email MP Dean Russell and Mayor Peter Taylor to see if they can assist with parking situation at the school. COMPLETE
- (B) Y6 to make signs on 8th July including “Please park considerately”, “Please respect our neighbours”. COMPLETE but sign to be put up by Caretaker.
- (C) GJ to look at the wording of the current Attendance letter. COMPLETE, letter altered and made more ‘friendly’.
- (D) TM/GJ to write a letter explaining the schools expectations of attendance. COMPLETE
- (E) GJ to arrange for all teachers to make a video in place of the Meet the Teacher day. COMPLETE, unable to be emailed to all parents due to size restrictions on email so all uploaded onto the school website.
- (F) GJ to do a whole school assembly on addressing worries/concerns re transition. COMPLETE
- (G) GJ to arrange emails addresses/how to contact your new teacher as part of the videos. COMPLETE

- 3. What Workshops would parents like:

Parents were keen that these meetings had more cultural diversity which was representative of the school. Remains difficult to engage parents to attend these events. No more successful when on zoom. AH has advertised the event via email, posters up around the school and also on Twitter.

Current plans are for a Maths workshop by Miss Essex after half term and the usual Secondary transition workshop.

NM said how useful her sessions with the new MHST EMHP (Megan, MT) had been. The sessions had really helped her with fears and worries and she felt that the booklet would be useful for all parents and teachers. **(A) AH to speak to MT about a workshop with the PST team on what is on offer to support both parents and children in school.** RD said we need to try and dispel that the myth that the Bungalow is for ‘naughty’ children. They all

agreed our school was so much more than a school and this needed to be celebrated and communicated to all in our community. AH will arrange a parental workshop to include partnerships with the wider community (Salvation Army and Watford Women's Centre).

Also parents would like a Reading workshop to try and instil a love of reading in our children and parents! **(B) TM (Assistant Head) to look into a Reading workshop for parents.**

- **4. Online parents evenings:**

All 3 parents agreed they really love online parents evenings. RD said her husband is able to join from his hotel room as he is away and he no longer misses out on these important events. NM has hers via the phone which worked really well. They all want to keep this.

- **5. Fundraising events for the PTA:**

The school do not have a current PTA. GJ said there had been complaints from parents re having too many things in a row; non uniform day, Hello Yellow and then Daily Mile Marathon on 3 consecutive Friday's. GJ and AH will look at this and ensure events are more evenly spaced out. However, parents said they felt everything was actually OK as donations were only 50p and there had not been too many events at one time. GJ is aware that CTS (Cherry Tree) are having a Halloween celebration but she did not feel this was appropriate due to the current Coronavirus increase and parents agreed.

- **6. Communication:**

Parents agreed they are all happy with communication between school and home. They like being able to email the office rather than go in and see them. They like daily reminder emails. Only issue was sometimes seeing an email and not knowing which year group (which child) this related to. **(C) GJ to ask the office to say which year group all emails refer to.**

- **7. Closing Sussex Road gate:**

GJ said this was a 'no win' situation and the gate will be closed after half term. The new signs caused issues further up Sussex Road with regards to parking. She had complaints from residents. RD advised that there had been consultation re parking permits which would solve the issue. Gates to be closed after half term and re-opened possibly for the summer term. RD advises there has been very poor behaviour from BFS parents which has caused many of the complaints to school. All agreed that more children should be walking to school **(D) GJ to arrange 'Walk to school' days – part of a 'green' initiative. Could we have 'Walk to school Wednesday's?**

- **8. AOB:**

RD says her daughter ED would like to start a Book Club to start at school **(E) TM to look into starting a Book Club as Reading Lead.** RD spoke about the importance of reading for pleasure and children reading what they are interested in, are there comics in school? RD said there are comics for neuro-diverse children (Dekko Comics). **(F) GJ to speak to Mrs Bulter (SENCo) re buying neuro-diverse books for our children.** RD would like the school to celebrate Neuro-Diversity week in March. **(G) GJ and AH to plan Neuro-diversity week with RD.** Her daughter would like to fundraise perhaps for an art installation of

umbrellas which is from the ADHD foundation. The school want to celebrate and share neuro-diversity. RD said how important her daughter reading books written by someone who was also neuro-diverse has been to her. GJ suggested KS2 children doing presentations about the topic and parents being invited in to watch. RD could supply books to share with parents – possible picnic idea. Consider coffee mornings for parents of neuro-diverse children/SEND children to be called 'Kwerky Kidz'. **(H) AH to discuss a coffee morning for parents with children with SEND.**

GJ advised someone would be coming into school to talk about E-safety for parents.

NM wanted an overnight stay at the school – **(I) GJ to investigate a sleep over in the school hall not outside due to safeguarding.**

NM mentioned the end of Yr6 last year was not what the children had wanted due to C-19. GJ suggested trying to do something now but it was agreed it was too late. GJ hopes that nothing like this will happen again from now on, as the guidance is now very different to last year.

Actions:

- (A) AH to speak to MT about a workshop with the PST team on what is on offer to support both parents and children in school.**
- (B) TM (Assistant Head) to look into a Reading workshop for parents.**
- (C) GJ to ask the office to say which year group all emails refer to.**
- (D) GJ to arrange 'Walk to school' days – part of a 'green' initiative. Could we have 'Walk to school Wednesday's?**
- (E) TM to look into starting a Book Club as Reading Lead.**
- (F) GJ to speak to Mrs Bulter (SENCo) re buying neuro-diverse books for our children.**
- (G) GJ and AH to plan Neuro-diversity week with RD.**
- (H) AH to discuss a coffee morning for parents with children with SEND.**
- (I) GJ to investigate a sleep over in the school hall, not outside due to safeguarding.**

Parent Voice Meeting Dates for 2021/2022 are all Wednesday's in the Bungalow as follows:

8th December 2021

2nd February 2022

23rd March 2022

11th May 2022

6th July 2022