

Parent Forum

9 November 2017

Present

Lisa Parkes
Lorraine Warner
Melissa Casley
Karen Hodgkinson

Apologies

Catherine McDougall
Caroline Fownes
Joanne Taylor

Parental Engagement – LP discussed the mixed engagement of parents in supporting their child's reading, often saying they are too busy to sign the reading diary. KH – can child do smiley face or sign book. LP – we have said this is better than nothing.

KH – some parents may not know what to write, grandparents etc. Is that the case, why not recording it. LP – this could be a possibility. They could use the guidelines on the website.

LW – Is it because parents don't read?

LP – Some I don't think do. Those children who aren't heard at home are listened to in school as much as possible.

MC – Lucy wants to get her tables right, not sure what she's getting wrong. So useful to know information on times tables. The extra information will help.

KH – makes sense to push children. Interesting that it's on website., I'd forgotten that it was.

MC – Lucy got top marks on her tablet. (Good opportunity for tables).

KH – I like it because they concentrate rather than just rush through.

MC – Is it possible to have information on what Lucy is getting wrong?

LP – Not possible to keep feeding back on a weekly basis but at parent's meetings targets are set and teachers will tell children how they are doing.

KH – Isaac does not understand what checking means! Thinks it means there's an answer in the box.

LP – Don't access times tables challenge until ready – usually occurs in Year 2 but some children are ready when in Year 1.

MC – are the times tables tested on a Friday?

LP – Different in each class (timing and frequency).

No further ideas were presented about parental engagement.

Life skills – LP shared information on the slides.

LW – Really pleased with the Butterfly Project. Massive improvement in character building over years. I like mindfulness that has been introduced.

Good to teach from an early age and prepare the children for later life.

LP – Introducing Nessy Fingers as a whole school tool to teach touch-typing, again another life skill.

KH – I underestimated how much Dodford did to build resilience, children well prepared for middle school.

MC – Can they log onto Nessy Fingers at home, like with Bug Club, Education City?

LP – Yes, when licences are set up.

KH – I think the development of this is good for the school. Have the skills to cope when leaving here. Equipped to cope due to work on resilience.

LW – You don't realise until they leave how it has helped them.

Parents Association – LP introduced slide which discussed the PA and how the funds are spent in this school.

MC – Money is spent very wisely.

KH – Communicated back well by the PA and the school.

MC – Started Facebook group to feedback what funds are spent on.

MC – Very cautious of new members. Publish meetings, events, funds, items bought.

LW – Can PA have section on school website?

LP – Yes we need to celebrate the money raised and share how it is spent.

KH – Positive to share on school website.

LP – Are we running the most productive fundraisers?

KH – The walk is well supported.

The final discussion was about the low attendance at the meeting.

KH/MC – It is a shame there are no Reception parents here.

MC – How do we encourage more interest?

KH – The timing is good as allows parents to get home from work so one parent can look after the children.

LW – Is it a bit early for new Reception parents to get involved? Is it worth planning for later in year?

LW – Is the questionnaire too far back?

LP – The questionnaire though must reflect the previous academic year.

KH – This meeting has fallen on Parents Evening week at Parkside.

LP – Future of meeting will need to be considered, looking at time of year, purpose and impact.

LP finished by thanking the three parents who attended for their views and supportive comments.