

Minutes of Pixmore Parent Forum Tuesday 17th September 2019

Present:	Sue Willans	- SENCo
	Anne Marie Kennedy	- Family Support Worker
	Steven Decube	- Parent
	Caroline Nicholson	- Parent and Governor
	Mischael Reid-Stone	- Parent
	Kitsor Montague	- Parent

Agenda:

- Welcome – please sign in and help yourself to refreshments
- Report format
- Toilets
- Groups for parents
- AOB: Homework

Introductions

Report Format:

Sue shared information about the three key pieces of information shared with parents during the year, including the Open Evening Discussion Form, report (long format for Spring term, and report format for Summer term (short format). She asked for parents' views about how much information they would like to know and how often. Parents looked at the formats and shared their views.

Question: *What is the difference between attainment and progress?*

Parents noted that they were confused about the difference between these. One parent noted that they could not see how a child could be above the expected standard for progress but working towards in attainment. Caroline noted that she knew the difference, but that her husband did not and she explained this to him. Sue explained that progress refers to each child's individual progress from their own starting points, whereas attainment relates to progress relative to age related expectations, which is a government measure. These measures were discussed. Parents found the discussion and explanation helpful and felt that other parents may feel similarly confused about the difference between progress and attainment.

Action: Sue to share with SLT with a view to including information to explain progress and attainment to parents with school reports.

- Parents felt that it is better to have a long report during the Spring as they can help their children to improve during the Summer, whereas if this was in the Summer term, there isn't much to do as the children will be with new teachers and have had the Summer holidays in between.
- They felt that the current format and organisation for reports and parents' evenings is enough to enable them to feel well informed about their child's learning.

Action: SW to share comments with SLT – current format and organisation of parents' evenings to remain

One parent asked about homework. Their child is in Year 3 and they are not sure what the expectations are. Sue explained the format for homework and the expectations, noting the changes that had been made as a result of comments made by parents at parent forum, including the change in the number of topics as some parents felt they impact negatively on family life (March 2019 forum), whilst another said that their child enjoyed the topics, so a compromise was reached with a reduction in the number of topic homework.

Year 3 parents noted that they have not had any homework yet. Year 5 parent had received topic and maths homework in a folder. Sue explained the use of purple books for homework and the fixed days for handing out and return of homework.

Action: Sue to clarify homework expectations in year groups with SLT and ensure that parents are aware of the expectations (newsletter?)

Sue explained to parents the importance of homework not being a burden; that it is good preparation for secondary school and over-learning of key skills of reading, spelling and time tables is part of home learning, while topic is an extra. The children need to enjoy their learning. If they are struggling, use the home school diary. Open door policy – please come in and speak with someone if you have any worries about your child’s education or welfare.

One parent asked about maths homework. She stated that her daughter was telling her that she has been taught one method while she was trying to show her another. Sue explained the changes to teaching of maths and Maths Mastery and suggested parents look at the information on the website for the different methods. Parents liked the idea of doing courses in school to help them with their children’s maths. Sue shared information about courses run by HAFLS last year. One working parent noted that her daughter’s education is more important and that she would make the time to attend sessions to help her daughter.

Action: Sue to speak with maths lead about a possible parent information session for maths and will explore option to run HAFLS maths course again for parents of children in Year 3

Toilets

In response to a growing awareness of the need to reflect the diverse needs of our school population, Sue asked parents to discuss their views of re-assigning some of the children’s toilets to make them gender neutral.

Anne Marie explained the current set-up across the school: In Year 3-5, each toilet area comprises four separate cubicles, assigned two girl and two boy, with shared wash facilities. Year 6 has two separate toilet rooms assigned boys and girls – the boys’ toilets also have urinals. This set up will need considering separately.

The plan would be to assign two toilets in each of the Year 3-5 toilet areas as boy and girl, and to retain one boy and one girl toilet so that all pupils can have a choice of which to use.

All parents felt this would be a reasonable solution and had no reservations about it.

Action: Sue to share views with SLT and discuss re-assigning toilets, with separate consideration for Year 6 owing to the separate toilet facilities.

Next meeting: Thursday 7th November from 9:15-10:15 – venue tba

Thank you to all who attended; your views matter, and we always take them seriously