

Minutes of Pixmore Parent Forum Thursday 21st March 2019

Present:	Sue Willans	- SENCo
	Anne Marie Kennedy	- Family Support Worker
	Jeanette Mooney	- Grandparent
	Claire Edmond	- Parent
	Ruth Mann	- Parent

Agenda:

- Homework – your views
- Family Learning Courses
- Second hand uniform sale
- Parental engagement – how can we improve this?

Homework:

Sue asked for parents' views on homework, noting that it was useful to have parents of children in Year 6 and Year 3.

- Topic is intrusive in family life. When parents work during the week, it is difficult to do homework in the evenings as the children are tired, and the weekends are family time – homework gets in the way and takes too long
- Not enough time to complete homework – given out on Friday and needs to be back on Wednesday – difficult for working parents as intrudes on this time when could complete on a week day night if given out on Wednesday and back the following Wednesday:
- Some topic homework require lots of research as parents don't know much about the subject area – takes even longer
- Some topics hard to relate to for parents
- One parent said that her children think topic is optional so don't do it – Sue confirmed that this is not the case
- One parent noted that her daughter had not completed all of the tasks, and had worked hard on the ones she had completed, but was then told she would have to go to homework club to finish the last two, which upset her. Parent thought they had until 3rd April, but not the case – too many tasks before, but not as many now
- Homework Club discussed – not a punishment – some children choose to go – Jeanette noted that her child would rather do his homework at Homework Club than at home. Secondary school homework expectation discussed – children need to do some so that they get used to it, but also need to be aware that going to Homework Club is not a punishment
- Parents not sure about how spellings work – seems to be different in every year group – we know about eh spelling lists, but not about the others that are sent home – an explanation would be useful
- Year 6 get comprehension work, but Year 3 just get spellings – why is this – SATs practise discussed.
- Maths sheets okay in Year 3 – they now include an example, which really helps. Claire found the Maths course really helpful as she can now help her daughter even when she is not sure what to do – worth doing this course

- Year 6 maths sheets really difficult – children can't do a lot of them and parents struggle too. Sue explained that this is good practise for the children, but they may not have covered all of the topics in the sheets as these are generic. Parents not aware of this and it would be useful to know as it looks like the children don't know things they should. Sue reassured that this is not the case
- Discussion about length of time taken to do homework – can take ages and cause arguments, and be disruptive to family life. Sue referred parents to the Homework Policy, which includes times, suggesting that they stop after the suggested time, unless their child is really enjoying what they are doing. Parents said that they were not aware of this. Sue suggested that, even if their child had spent the specified time and only completed 3 questions, to stop and make a note in their diary, or on the homework, so that teachers are aware – the children will not get into trouble for this. Suggestion to clarify expectations in a newsletter.

Second hand uniform:

- Anne Marie explained about the second hand uniform service. Details to be sent out with the next newsletter to raise awareness. All parents present felt this is a good idea and would take advantage of it
- Claire noted that this was run successfully at Hillshott School
- Jeanette asked whether the service includes secondary uniforms as parents often have children in different phases – Anne Marie to clarify with parent running the service
- Anne Marie and Jeanette to contact Dani Johnson re fundraising for this
- Message about donations of good quality used school uniform to be brought to Pixmore to be sent out in next newsletter
- Leaflet given to parents present

Parenting courses:

- Sue shared the HAFLS course book and asked parents to give their views on courses they would like to run during the Summer term.
- Sue to contact the HAFLS team to confirm courses for next term and put invitation into the next newsletter
 - ✓ Parents would like:
 - ✓ Keeping up with your child's English
 - ✓ Family English
 - ✓ iPads/tablet, apps, staying safe
 - ✓ Keeping up with your children's ICT
 - ✓ Scrapbooking made simple
 - ✓ Creative crafts
 - ✓ Assertiveness
 - ✓ Mindfulness

Parental Engagement:

Sue asked: How can we improve this further?

- Parents do attend parent forum, but not many, although great ideas – Sue noted that ideas are taken forward and have made a difference, thanking the parents who had come to this forum for their contributions

- Is school promoting contact? Yes, Facebook, newsletters, word of mouth, online on school events calendar
- Claire felt that parents may feel nervous, but need to come and try it
- Ruth noted that the events calendar and newsletters don't always include all events and are occasionally inaccurate, although much better than before – agree that parents need to look at newsletters and school website, which is under review
- Bacon butties work well!
- Could we have a reward system – children whose parents/carers attend the forum get 10 House Points or Golden Tickets?
- Holding the Parent Forum at a different, more neutral venue may help – discussed the possibility of a café in the town with the offer of a free coffee
- Joint forum with Hillshott discussed for next meeting as this will be close to transition – Sue to check whether this is still active
- Ruth mentioned the Best Before Café in the town, which others weren't aware of – Ruth, Jeanette, Claire and Anne Marie to visit the next meeting on Thursday 28/3/19 to see what it is like so that other parents can be made aware of it as it may help other parents
- Discussed the possibility to appointing year group parent ambassadors who could promote school events and Parent Forum – good idea

Actions:

Sue to discuss homework ideas with SLT:

- Can homework go out on Wednesday and be returned the following Wednesday? – may not work because of marking, but more likely to complete as not enough time currently
- Information about homework expectations, including timings, to be included in the next newsletter
- Information about spellings to be provided in more detail – how can this be done – is it consistent across all year groups
- Discuss English homework expectation for Year 3 and Maths sheets in Years 5 and 6

Second hand uniform shop:

- Information to be shared in next newsletter
- Anne Marie and Jeanette to explore fund raising ideas

Parenting courses:

- English courses and possibly one creative course to run after school – Sue to contact HAFLS admin to arrange
- Advertise widely via Facebook page, newsletters and targeted invitations

Parental engagement:

- Discuss the appointment of year group parent ambassadors with SLT and governing body
- Discuss venue with SLT
- Discuss reward systems for children of parents/carers who attend
- Anne Marie and group present at this forum to attend Best Before Café and feedback to SLT
- Sue to arrange joint forum with Hillshott after the holidays

Next meeting: Wednesday 22nd May 2019 from 9:15-10:15 – venue tba

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