

Minutes of Pixmore Parent Forum Thursday 7th November 2019

Present:	Sue Willans	- SENCo
	Anne Marie Kennedy	- Family Support Worker
	Claire	- Parent

Agenda:

- Welcome – please sign in
- How can we make the forum more accessible?
- How can we promote healthy lunchboxes?
- Creating a balance on the use of computers at home
- Home/school diaries – how effective are they as a means of communication?

Introductions

Improving the accessibility of parent forum:

Claire felt that not much can be done – she thinks that the forum is always a good way to find out what is going on: “I’ve found out a lot by coming and feel more involved”. Parents busy – some working and others don’t feel the need to come along. It’s good having the forum at a coffee lounge – more relaxed.

- Marvellous Me notifications don’t always come through immediately, so not always a reliable way of getting information about things happening that day, or the following day. If you don’t have mobile data, you don’t get the message until you get home. Claire wanted to attend the IT session held during parent’s evening, but didn’t know it was on until the next day because the notification didn’t come through – consider giving 2/3 days notice for events to allow time for the notifications to come through.
- Agreed that Parentmail and Mme expensive, so can only use one method – Hillshott used to send text messages, which were quicker, but they also moved over to Mme.
- SW suggested that Mme could be linked to school calendar
- Parents may think that the forum is very formal
- Consider a sign near the school gates to advertise events daily/weekly
- Newsletter in cabinet outside Year 3 is the last Summer one

Actions:

- **Newsletter in cabinet to be updated by 12/11/19**
- **AE to cost a sign to go near the school gates to act as a daily reference point for school events**
- **AE to speak with Mme about linking school calendar**
- **Arrange another forum before Christmas at Cultivo to include a tombola and free drinks – produce flyers and hand out in days running up to the forum – target Year 3 parents and invite Hillshott parents**

Promoting healthy lunchboxes

- Difficult because parents tend to give children what they are willing to wait
- Claire asked whether the children are given a certain amount of time – Anne Marie noted that they don’t, but they are encouraged to eat rather than talk because there are lots of children needing to eat – children who take longer to eat are given more time. Claire noted that he daughter has asked for less food so she takes less time – AMK to look into this.
- It may be that parents are not sure what a healthy lunch box looks like, or should contain

- Sue noted that the PSHCE curriculum includes information about healthy food choices
- Parents did not realise that the children can have cake in their lunchboxes – SW noted that this rule only applies to snacks
- Could hold an information evening

Actions:

- **SW to contact school nurse to ask whether they can provide support for an information evening about health lunches.**

Computer Games:

- Parent noted that everything is blocked at home – all locks possible – as she doesn't know how safe anything is
- Child has just started spending more time on computer playing games with friends – can be difficult to get her off it now.
- Agreed that children need to learn how to keep themselves safe – easy to over-block so children don't learn how to keep themselves safe
- Child walking home told her friends she would see her later – referring to online gaming – mum encouraging her to invite friends round rather than play online – they play outside and don't escape into a computer game.
- Needs to be a balance
- Repeat safety talk, but advertise in good time and make more accessible – in dining area rather than in a separate room.

Action:

- **Arrange another esafety session for parents – send invitations out in good time**

Home School Diaries

- One parent felt they are not effective as she does not receive any feedback – her daughter reads every day and no one writes in it from school – it could work well if there was feed back at least once a week
- Parents asked whose job it is to check the diaries. Sue noted that it varies, but usually teachers once a week and support staff when books are changed
- Parent asked what the expectations are – needs clarifying
- Discussed raffle ticket system to provide a termly reward for children who read 5 days a week

Action:

- **Sue to discuss raffle ticket system to start in new year**
- **SLT discussion about expectations re home school diaries and who should sign them – share with teaching staff**

Next meeting: Friday 6th December 2019 from 9:15-10:15 – Cultivo Lounge