

Minutes of Pixmore Parent Forum Thursday 11th March 2015

Present:	Tracy Coates	- Parent
	Rachel Toddington	- Parent
	Mrs. Mann	- Parent
	Mrs. Heath	- Parent
	Mrs. Welbourn	- Parent
	Mrs. Winchester	- Parent
	Kath West	- Governor
	Anne-Marie Kennedy	- Family Support Worker
	Sue Willans	- SENCo

Apologies: Mrs. Daykin

Agenda:

- Introductions
- What's going well and what needs to be improved? Focus on outcomes from previous forum discussions, communication and pupil safety and well-being
- Home learning – your thoughts on our suggestions

The Parent Forum was introduced as being an opportunity to look back at discussion topics from previous meetings and consider actions taken as a result. Open and frank discussions were invited between parents and staff and governor present and the following comments were noted:

Positive outcomes from actions taken as a result of previous meetings:

- Communication: newsletters better and more frequent. Parents would like paper copies as well as the electronic version.
- Texts are now personalised, but come out backwards and split
- Parents like the new online sign-up as it gives them greater control over times. However, children must be linked to both parents.
- The new curriculum meeting information was good and timely, and the time of the meeting is better – not too early.
- It is really useful that homework goes out on the same day across the school and that it always follows the same content pattern.
- School is very good at communicating when things are going well with our children, but also great if things are difficult.
- Revised Year 3 entry through 2 doors so much better at reducing congestion.

Areas for development:

- No change to teacher visibility at the beginning and end of the day. One parent feels that doors shut too early and thinks that teachers should be around to ensure all children have been collected.

- Incidents on playground – these should always be communicated from playground supervisors to class teachers and parents if first aid is required. Often found out from child.
- Reading Scheme – 12 week programme not followed-up properly – no signing from teacher. Kids losing motivation fast and need support from school so it's not a chore. Encouragement is key and texts need to be well chosen.
- Where are copies of school letters? On website. Some confusion regarding content of letters home. Not always clear e.g. Red Nose Day and what to wear.
- Supervision at break times – who supervises and how does it work? Parents were shown the break and lunchtimes rotas in order to show them how this works. All were reassured that there is sufficient cover at break and lunchtimes and commented favourably on the detail shown on the rota.
- New system and rewards for Golden Time – parents would like to have been told about the changes sooner. Mixed feelings regarding the rewards for children who have kept all of their Golden Time as it was felt that some children who have only ever lost 5 minutes were heavily penalised by missing out on the cinema trip. Mrs. Willans commented that staff had discussed this and agreed that there needed to be an element of discretion for next time. One parent with two children in the school, one of whom did go to the cinema and the other didn't, felt that this worked well for her children as she had prepared them for the potential consequences and felt it was fair. Another felt that the reward was too large compared with those given when children achieve house pint milestones.

Home Learning:

Mrs. Willans shared information about the increase in the number of children with working memory difficulties, which is the ability to retain and manipulate information in the short-term memory. School is considering signing up for a programme called CogMed, a computer-based program based on a weekly commitment to five hours of work. The program has been shown to be very effective at improving working memory capacity when followed correctly.

As it would be difficult to fit 5 hours of computer-based work into the current timetable, school would offer to pay to sign the children up for the programme and the children would then do two hours a week in school and three hours at home. Parents would sign a contract to say they will support their children with this at home to show their commitment. Parents thought this was a good idea and all said they would agree to sign-up to the contract as long as this was followed-up in school.

The meeting finished with parents being asked to note one positive comment and one area for development for Pixmore. Comments as follows:

- Children with additional needs are generally well-supported.
- Communication between school and home is very good.
- Pixmore is great at creating a warm, supportive atmosphere to learn in.
- Communication with parents (positive and negative) is good.
- The school is so inclusive

- Newsletters and fun dress-up days should be clearer
- Golden Time should be adjusted for minor indiscretions.

Next Parent Forum: tba