

# Minutes of Pixmore Parent Forum Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2015

<b>Present:</b>	Tracy Coates	- Parent
	Clare Sheldon	- Parent
	Daryl Heath	- Parent
	Jeanette Mooney	- Parent
	Mrs Turner	- Parent
	Jessica West	- Parent
	Anne-Marie Kennedy	- Family Support Worker
	Sue Willans	- SENCo

Apologies: Kath West - Governor SEND

## Agenda:

- Welcome and introductions
- Behaviour in school
- School trips and visits
- School uniform
- Oftsed Report – your views

## Behaviour in school

Brief discussion about school systems for managing behaviour, including the Pixmore Way and Pixmore Learning Power, with a focus on behaviour for learning, rewarding positive behaviour choices and ensuring that behaviour does not impact negatively on learning. SW explained the importance of preparing the children for the move to secondary school as they move into Year 6 so there are no surprises.

Parents present had no concerns about behaviour and said that their children are happy in school. One parent of a child in a year group with pupils who have displayed challenging behaviour in the past said that she feels things have improved over time and her son no longer mentions 'incidents'. She feels that the new system in Year 6 is working well. The children can receive green, yellow or red cards. If they receive a red card, a teacher calls home to alert parents – children have been overheard talking about this and saying that parents will be called if you don't behave.

Parents talked about the reward systems and felt things are better now that the Golden Time reward criteria has been made more reasonable.

**Action:** Parents present have no concerns about behaviour and how this is managed in school. S W to pass this onto staff together with parent perception about the Year 6 behaviour system.

## School trips and visits

Parents of children who have already been on trips feel there is a good range of trips and visits organised. There aren't as many as at our main feeder school and they are more expensive at Pixmore but probably subsidised at infant school. This is especially difficult when families have more than one child. Parents who have had more than one child at the school said that her children had all expected to go on the same trips as they passed through the school and that when they changed, e.g. one spent a night under canvas rather than having a residential trip which her brothers, her child had felt disappointed. Equally, however, one parent said that until her eldest child joined Year 5 some time ago, he hadn't had any residential trips, so this was quite new for her. SW noted that sometimes trips have had to be cancelled because there have been insufficient children going, although this is avoided whenever possible. However, there have to be a certain number of children going to make the cost reasonable.

One parent noted that her child had really enjoyed the Year 6 trip to Bletchley Park.

Parents would like plenty of notice about trips involving cost. Could trips be planned a year ahead and information about cost appear in the first newsletter of the year to enable parents to plan? Parents discussed other expenses, including milk and swimming lessons. They found it helpful receiving the letter about milk costs before Christmas so this can be allowed for. Could the same notice be given for swimming lessons?

Parents would like more information about how trips are going – one school has a Twitter feed so that parents can check that children have arrived and there is a feed during the day. SW said she will mention this to AE. There is now a Pixmore APP for Android phones which parents can look at and will include this information. One parent said that this won't help her as she has an Apple phone. This was acknowledged.

**Action:** SW to share information with Mrs Evans about advance notice of costs for school trips and about the possibility of live feeds about trips on our website.

### **Uniform**

SW told parents that views had been sought from staff and children about current school uniform.

Parents felt that the uniform is fine and that changing it would be confusing for everyone. Currently uniform is inexpensive and easy to source.

It was agreed that white polo shirts are very practical but don't keep their colour well and soon turn grey. However, they are easy to source and can be purchased cheaply. Parents said that polo shirts could be in house colours to avoid the problems with white ones, or the logo could be in house colours.

One parent said her daughter doesn't like the girl's cardigan as it is made of sweatshirt material. SW noted that it is fine to wear plain green cardigans in this case as the ones with logos are not compulsory.

Another parent said she feels plimsolls are not smart and the children wear them with backs trodden down or badly worn. SW noted that letters used to go home letting parents know that plimsolls need replacing and will check if this still happens. Parents think this is a good idea as they don't know when their child's plimsolls are worn out which can be embarrassing. Lots of children seem to be wearing colourful trainers; SW noted that school uniform is black shoes and not trainers and that Mrs Evans mentions this in newsletters.

**Action:** SW to speak to staff about parents' views on uniform and find out about plimsoll letters.

**Any other business:** One parent asked about the school library and how children take books out. SW explained the system, which uses thumbprint recognition. The children can take books out when they want to but there isn't a library slot as such. Mrs Allin looks after the library. One parent said that her child has commented she doesn't know how to take books out to take home and that it would be useful if this information was passed onto parents at the beginning of the year. Also, children should be reminded how to do this as they forget.

**Action:** SW to pass information onto Mrs Evans so that information about the library can be passed onto parents at the beginning of the year.

**Next Parent Forum:** Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2016 @ 9:15a.m.