

Brookhurst Parents' Forum 24th September 2013

Present:

A Stanton (HT), M Hughes (DHT), W Gimes (T), L Houlihan (T), Andy Daniels (Year 3 and Year 5), K Merritt (Foundation), K Mothersdale (Year 3 and Foundation)

Apologies:

H Bloomfield (Year 4) , P Hawkins (Year 4 and 3)

Matters arising from the previous meeting

- School has provided updates on learning platform development in the newsletters. Closed.
- Website developments are continuing including the improvements to the calendar.
- Communication were sent regarding the purpose and process for the Learning Review Meeting (LRM). Closed.

Ongoing actions from the previous meeting

- School has contacted Highways about cutting back the bushes next to the side parking. We are on a list for them to come and investigate. There is even a possibility that the hedge may be able to come down now that the resident has put up a fence inside the hedge.
- Proposal that those not going on the Marle Hall trip from year 6 could undertake a project connected to the Parking challenge. Ideas might include:
 - Design and provide map of alternative parking spots for parents
 - Measure + do traffic survey
 - Encourage families to make a pledge to walk more to school
 - Resuscitate walk-to-school day / week (perhaps link this in to National Walk to School Week)
- M Jacobs will arrange the maths evening for parents. Date to be advised.
- M Hughes to find the pictures that were drawn of the teachers to include on the school website.

Agenda

- 1) **Feedback on end of term activities: sports' day, music concert etc**

Sports Day

There was some discussion about organisation and communication around sports' day and how this could be improved. Difficulties mentioned were:

- Parents unable to plan their time as limited information on running order of events
- Parents unable to plan their viewing schedule when they are keeping up with more than 1 child
- The day was perceived by some as too long especially for parents who work
- Picnic lunch break too long
- Ad hoc nature regarding parents collecting children at the end of sports day

Suggestions for improvements included:

- Sharing the year group 'running order'

- Ask Parents' Forum to review comms from last year's sports day and see how it could be improved
- Ask a parent to write a "Parents' Survival Guide to Sports Day (including suggestions on how to dip in and out for those with limited time)

Action – A Archer and J Anslow to look at what might be possible to address the feedback mentioned above.

Music Concert

All the feedback received so far on the music concert had been very positive from both parents and children. The children enjoyed the variety and range of talents and the chance to perform in front of each other was great for developing self-esteem.

2) How to further engage parents/carers in school activities

The school feels very lucky that there is always a great response from parents to specific requests for support. This ranged from ad-hoc or regular support for activities such as reading to / with children, supporting visits / swimming, cooking, sewing, talking about their jobs to supplying items to support school activities (books, magazines, boxes, blankets etc). At the 'meet the team' evening, 'sign up' sheets were used for parents to say if they could offer any support and what their areas of interest or expertise were. There was a suggestion that this could be a good idea to include at any school events where parents / carers / grandparents attended.

A reminder about engaging in school activities could also go into the newsletter.

3) Update on school website / learning platform

Parents' logins are due to go out, but before they do school is working through the logistics and testing to make sure that everything works as well as possible. All children, except Foundation, already have logins to the Learning Platform.

In the meantime, parents with questions about learning should raise these via email, home-school diaries or face-2-face.

4) Logo for Parents' Forum

It was felt that a logo for Parents' Forum would be useful. The proposal was for a parents' competition to be run to design the logo – note to be posted in a future newsletter.

Action – K Mothersdale to scribe something to go into the school newsletter on the logo competition.

5) AOB

1. There was a discussion about children of school age being exposed to 18-rated games / videos and how this subject was addressed in school. L Houlihan advised that Year 5/6 do a rotation called Rights and Responsibilities where they explore topics including why they might steer clear of non-age appropriate materials. This was a hot topic for some parents and might generate some discussion / feedback. This is also a topic within E-safety which the school covers with both children and parents.

Action - L Houlihan to share some of the children's learning on this topic in the newsletter and invite reaction / comments from parents.

2. School sometimes receives emails from parents / carers that contain inflammatory / inappropriate language. Should there be a code-of-conduct for parents, written by parents, something that goes beyond what's included in the home-school agreement?

Action - topic to be discussed at the next meeting.

3. A comms map for parents would be useful, describing the many and varied means of communication between home and school and suggestions of how they might be best used. A proposal for a comms map has already been submitted along with an example to the school office.

Action – Gail to publish a comms map for parents

4. Parents' Forum to provide inserts into the school newsletter, as required, as 'Voice of the Parent'. This would fit in well with the ideas being considered for the new school prospectus.
5. Thanks were noted to Mr Jacobs from parents who had to bring their child(ren) with them to the recent meet the teacher evening. Mr Jacobs had kindly taken the children to the hall allowing the parents more opportunity to focus on engaging with their class teachers. Whilst recognising that this may not always be possible on similar evenings, it was much appreciated by parents.
6. If parents are not receiving the regular newsletter, they should email the office to check their correct details are held.
7. A parents' perspective on all comms, but particularly those for new parents, might be useful.

Action – Foundation team to ask Foundation parents what else would have been helpful to know during the run up to their child starting school.

8. Comments concerning school dinners can be emailed to the office to pass onto the kitchen staff.
9. L Houlihan sought feedback on a different approach to the drama production to be undertaken around Easter. Instead of a single production involving only a small number of children, the idea would be to have smaller productions going on in each classroom throughout the school. All felt this would work well and that, as long as parents with more than 1 child at the school would be able to watch each of them, then this could work well.

Date of next meeting

Monday 20th January 2014: 7.30pm – 8.30pm