



Brookhurst Parents' Forum

Combined minutes taken from both morning and evening meetings.

16th January 2017

Present:

Angela Stanton (HT), Mark Hughes (DHT), Penny Hawkins (6) Andy Daniels (6), Karen Mothersdale (3 and 6) Claire Duhoze (1, 3 and 6) Paul Mooney (F), Ajay Pandey (F) Michael Vakns (2) Caroline Flaig (2 and 4) Rekha Patil (2) Praveen Patil (2) Murat Colak (5) Peter Hardman (1 and 5) Tina Swanson (2, 4 and 6), Kelly Savage (1 and 4), Natalie Carroll (3), Amie Burbidge and Martin Metcalfe (F), Chloe Hurst (2)

Agenda

1) Annual School Report

Due to national changes in the primary assessment system, the annual school report will be moved from the spring term to the end of the summer term. This will allow the school to report on the pupil's end of year progress, in line with the new criteria which is now measured as:

- Working towards the expected standard
- Working at the expected standard
- Working at greater depth than expected standard

Parents were asked to consider what changes they would like to see made in the annual school report, with the following suggestions made:

- The annual reports should feel more personal with more information about the individual child. In addition to the personal statements from teachers, it was suggested that more comments regarding the individual child's 'next steps', with references made to pupils' existing class work / projects, would be useful. This would emphasise the personal approach.
- A section on how parents can help with the next steps, with clear examples, would be helpful.
- The detail about what has been taught in the curriculum could be removed, as this can be found in year group topic webs. Instead a reference could be made in the report as to where they can find the topic webs.
- A statement about the level the children were currently working at – set against National Standards (for year 2 and 6 only) was suggested.
- It was agreed that the grid / table at the beginning of the report is very useful and needs to be kept, however it was suggested that this grid could be changed to a radar diagram.

A discussion regarding the nature of the spring term parents' evening was held. A recognition that a 10 minute time management structure was necessary, and that if parents required longer to discuss a particular concern that they should make a separate appointment.

As the annual report is moving to the end of the academic year, it is important that parents understand that this is a formal opportunity to gain a measure of their child's academic progress to date, as well as gain an understanding of their social and personal development. It was agreed that the academic progress update should involve sharing with parents the tracking or assessment



materials. It was suggested that the assessment grid, taken from the annual report, could be used as a possible method. This would ensure that there are no surprises in the summer term report.

There was also a request that the changes to this reporting system are published in the school newsletter.

2) Three Year Strategy Plan

The Three Year Strategy Plan was shared with parents and comments sought on the content. Discussion on the priorities was undertaken with the majority of parents in agreement with the plan. Parents were asked to reflect on the plan and email Mr. Hughes with feedback - hughes.m3@welearn365.com

The three year strategic plan is to be finalised by Governors and Teachers in May 2017.

3) Home Learning

Some discussion arose around the purpose of the home learning policy (homework) with many parents liking the home learning activities. However some felt that there was too much homework and that getting their children to complete it 'can be a battle'. The following suggestions / requests were made by the parents in the forum.

- There should be some differentiation of home learning activities in specific year groups, with extension activities provided for those who require a more challenging activity.
- Pupils should have the marked homework returned with a personal comment. If the homework is being peer / self-assessed, then this should be checked and acknowledged by the teacher to ensure accuracy of this process.
- Consider the use of a file / book to hold all homework. Either a ring-binder (the worksheets to be hole-punched) or a book (the sheets could be stuck in at home) or an envelope file? This would keep everything in one place and allow pupils, parents and teachers to monitor the progression throughout the year and follow up on any areas of concern.
- Some of the home learning worksheets are left at school by the children. It was suggested that they are distributed on a Thursday, so if children do forget they have another day to collect it before the weekend. Alternatively it was suggested that homework is put on the website under the appropriate year group page.

4) Update on KS1 and KS2 SATs outcomes

The 2016 key stage one and key stage two SAT results were discussed, with an acknowledgment that overall the results were disappointing. The key stage two results were at the national average in reading, below the national average in maths, however above the national average in writing (this is marked internally). There was recognition that this was a new assessment system and results nationally were lower than previous years.

Information was shared about Pixl which is currently being implemented across KS2. It is a collaboration of schools from around the country focussing on improving outcomes. It has a "forensic" approach, identifying pupils' individual needs and identifying interventions that can



support them. Pixl and the associated resources are currently being used in KS2. Resources will be available for use in KS1 later on in the year.

It was noted that the focus on English and maths and the skills needed for transition to secondary school would be sustained after the completion of the key stage 2 SATs.

5) AOB

Mathletics – some parents raised concern over the consistency of how Mathletics was being used within year groups, with some classes using the system for homework and some not. It was agreed that further explanation is required for parents on how support their children using Mathletics at home. Mrs Pillow has been appointed the Mathletics champion.

ParentPay – some parents raised concerns around navigating ParentPay. It was suggested that the school newsletter could signpost parents to the ‘help and support sections’ on the parent pay website.

A parent raised a concern about the importance of handwriting and the pen licence for their child. This was discussed by parents with the recognition that a new cursive handwriting system is now in place, and with the suggestion that a more personal conversation with the child’s teacher would be beneficial.

Date of next meeting

Monday 19th June 2017

9.00am – 9.50am / 7.00pm – 7.50pm