

Brookhurst Parents' Forum 20th May 2013

Present:

J Ford (T), L Anderson-Kirby (T), M Jacobs (T), P Hawkins (year 2 and 3),
K Mothersdale (year 1), Katherine Snell (year 1), Stephanie Rix (Year 1),
Andy Daniels (Year 2 and Year 4)

Matters arising from the previous meeting

- The Parents' Forum page now has content and the dates have been published in the newsletter and on notice boards. The communication survey is back on the website, along with minutes from recent meetings, however the formatting needs revisiting and a date requires changing.
- The Home learning policy has been uploaded to the website.

Ongoing actions from previous meeting

- The school to contact Highways about cutting back the bushes next to the side parking
- Revisit the formatting on the Parent's Forum page
- The maths evenings for parents should be run again.
- School to provide updates on learning platform development in the newsletters.

Agenda

1) PARKING

The ongoing parking situation was discussed with the following new suggestions made:

- provide map of alternative parking spots to parents (potentially year 6 project to map & measure + do traffic survey)
- encourage families to make a pledge
- resuscitate walk-to-school day

Action – suggestions to be discussed within school meetings

2) WEBSITE

The development of the school website was discussed and the hard work of Gail, Denise and Stephanie was acknowledged. The new ideas and on-going developments are welcome and much appreciated. There is a further web meeting on the 5th June, which Andy will also attend, to discuss the three main areas of work required in order to supply a finalised cleaned design to the agency.

A) Navigation

- checking links
- merging tabs
- reducing footer
- Denise producing schematic of reduced main header nav links

B) Drive for better UX (User experience),

e.g. making FAQ with section jump & return links

C) Better image to copy ratio & introduction of pertinent images to better reflect 'spirit' of Brookhurst. Intention to drastically reduce copy to make it more manageable, relevant & to help prevent it becoming outdated quickly

It was also noted that this is a big job and school staff are very busy, however the importance of this task being completed by someone who is aware of school outlook & policies was acknowledged.

Action – further developments and recommendations, including the allocation of time to the task, to be discussed on the 5th June.

Action – all teachers to provide a picture of themselves (drawn by a pupil, possibly a competition) for the website.

3) Brookhurst APP

Following on from its launch at the previous meeting, parents fed back views on the new Mobile App. All in attendance agreed that it's a positive inclusion, but needs to be regularly updated and hold key information, diary already missing events to be really useful (e.g. Parent's forum not on App diary).

Andy suggested that to try to move to a single central point of update with a local based calendar diary (iCal) that could power the disparate app, website, newsletter diaries and be delivered direct to iphones, Android/Google, yahoo etc could save lots of people lots of time & create a single unified Brookhurst diary. At the moment Mr Hughes updates the newsletter diary on a Friday, the App is currently updated by ICT technician – could they be unified?

Action - Andy to potentially 'champion', and this will be discussed at the web team meeting on the 5th June.

4) Learning Review Meeting

The general consensus was that reporting early is more powerful when targets set in the school reports are systematically referenced in the subsequent Learning Review Meeting, therefore closing the circle. It was suggested that these targets should frame the discussion for the Learning Review Meeting and that parents should be informed of the purpose of this review meeting.

Action – the school to make parents / carers aware of the purpose and process of the LRM to ensure that they make the most of the allocated time with their teacher. As the teachers present were keen to stress that bigger issues should be dealt with separately in privately scheduled meetings, perhaps this could also be reiterated.
(N.B. – The above LRM is not applicable to foundation, who have a separate system).

1) Reporting Learning

Mr Jacobs introduced an exciting new format for reporting on children's learning. Although this is yet to be formally launched, the new approach intends to provide key sections of genuine personalised comment from teachers on our children's progress and provide differentiation between the information personal to your child and that which is universal to the curriculum group. The new format received a very warm response from parents.

The following suggestions were made:

- Re-ordering of 1st section so that the 'behaviour in class' rating isn't the first item.
- Within the English & maths section 'next steps' it was suggested that splitting the section into a generic 'upcoming class work' and a distinct 'parental support/home-focus' section particular to the child, which suggests topics to parents where the child might benefit from reinforced learning/activities at home, would be welcome.

If you are interested in finding out more about the new format, please do email Mr Jacobs.

AOB

It was requested that now that the statistics on pupil attendance were being published weekly in the newsletter, that an explanation of why the statistics were being published is provided for parents.

The admissions policy was raised and in particular about children who had siblings in school but were out of catchment area. Admissions were still in the process of being confirmed.

Firework debris has 'naturally' dispersed.

The topic of parental engagement was discussed. Most people felt that perhaps more parents / carers would get involved with the school if they were aware that their skills were needed in some way. Maybe parents are not sure what they could do? It was suggested that a list of the 'skills required' and 'opportunities to help' was published first, people can then fill in / register on the website so they could be directly approached when appropriate. Mr Jacobs cited an example of early club where some parents sorted breakfast freeing his time for planning.

Action - to be explored in more detail at the next meeting.

Date of next meeting

Tuesday 24th September 2013 – 7.00pm – 8.00pm