

Parents' Forum



Brookhurst Parents' Forum

Combined minutes taken from both morning and evening meetings.

27th April 2015

Present:

Angela Stanton (HT), Mark Hughes (DHT), (Penny Hawkins (4 and 5), Katherine Snell (1,3 & parent governor) (3), Aparna Kashi, (6) Sarbjit Purewal (6), April Harris (1), Tina Swanson (F, 2, 4 & 6), Kelly Savage (2), Natalie Carroll (1), Sarah Maw (1), Claire Duhozo (4), Andy Daniels (4 and 6), Claire Cobbald (3)

Matters arising from the last meeting

Action: MH to address concerns at SMT about school children being left unsupervised on the playground before 8.45am, bringing into question 'who is responsible and accountable'? **Update:** The school continue to monitor the situation and will contact individual families concerned.

Action: Mrs Wythe has applied for funding for several school improvement projects including; scooter racks and the steps between the two playgrounds. **Update:** This is ongoing.

Action: CMS to be contacted re woodwind lessons; how many pupils would we need as a minimum, what instruments, how much per pupil? **Update:** a minimum of 6 pupils would be needed to request woodwind instruments. If your child is interested please contact the school office ASAP. Please note that this will be for September 2016.

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Agenda

School action plan

An update from the school's action plan was presented to the forum. This update focussed on the three areas identified by the recent Ofsted report in which the school needed to improve further.

Consistency of excellent practice amongst TAs.

Ensuring that less able pupils were able to make maximum progress.

Ensuring that pupils have the opportunity to act on marked school work -

The forum welcomes the update and looks forward to hearing the results of the proposed changes in practice, such as the introduction of professional standards for TA. The forum were also interested in hearing how having one writing book for combined topics (being piloted in year 5) is improving pupil's presentation and teacher's feedback.

Home : School agreement

The content of current home : school agreement was discussed and it was felt that generally the agreement was fit for its purpose. The forum liked the Ambition Statement on the front cover and the three different sections within the agreement: parent's / carer's commitment, the child's commitment and the school's commitment. However, the forum did agree that it could be improved with amendments made in wording around communication, in both the school and parents' commitments and around 'dressing smartly' in school.

Currently the home school agreement is given to all parents / carers at the beginning of the child's schooling. This was discussed and it was agreed that in order to give more credence to the agreement, particularly around home : school communication, that the agreement should be given to all families at the beginning of each year. The school will discuss the content of the agreement at the 'meet the teaching team' evening and ask parents to discuss with their children at home. The agreement would be then be signed by all parties and returned to the school office. At a minimum, the school office will be required to retain one signed copy of the 'Home school Agreement' for each pupil.

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New sports days format

The new sports days format was introduced by Miss Stanton (am) and Mrs Archer (pm). The new format had been designed to be more inclusive and will allow ALL children in both Key Stages to participate in sporting activities. In the morning session, Key stage 2 children will participate in both track heats and retro (egg and spoon, sack race, obstacle etc), followed by the final races. After a picnic lunch, Key stage 1 will hold their retro races. If the races overrun (there will be over 60 races) then KS2 finals will be moved to the afternoon. There were a couple of suggestions made;

Pupils could design and produce a programme for the day, with the running order of races.

There could be a dedicated person on the speaker system, to announce the races.

Year 6 pupils could act as runners in the afternoon event.

The BSA could run a refreshments stall.

The forum acknowledged the time spent by Mrs Archer in creating the new format and appreciated the inclusive approach.

Sports day will be held on Monday July 6th this year.

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AOB

A parent raised her concerns over her daughter wanting to wear nail polish (finger nails) to school. Clarification on whether this was addressed within the school uniform policy was sought. The school's response was that the guidelines on wearing school uniform do not cover what 'not to wear' and although the wearing of nail polish is certainly not encouraged, as long as the learning is not being disrupted, that this wouldn't be seen as a key concern.

Two parents highlighted the forthcoming **School Summer Fair on the 10th July**, where there will be lots of attractions, a BBQ and a raffle. They asked the forum to raise the awareness of the fair and made a request for volunteers to help run the stalls. They also asked if any-one knew of companies to approach for competition prizes and requested donations of bottles, chocolates or other prizes suitable for a raffle. There will also be a second hand uniform sale, so if families have out-grown, but still in good condition, school uniform, please drop these and any raffle prizes into the school office.

A parent asked for an explanation of the Key Stage 1 SAT process for parents to assist them in understanding how best to support their children. An information booklet has been sent to all Year 2 parents.

A parent informed the forum that Email Alerts on ParentPay are totally free (it is only the SMS text-message Alerts that require payment). There are several options for receiving alerts for low payment balances and new items.

These appear in ParentPay's "My Alerts" section and can be set via the 'Communications' menu, then the 'Change Alert Settings' button; or directly at the web address:

https://www.parentpay.com/PPP/Consumer/MS_MyAlerts.aspx

Date of next meeting

September 2015 - tbc

9.00am - 9.50am / 7.00pm - 7.50pm