

RECORD of Parent Forum Meeting held on 20th November 2018

Present: Lucy Barringer (LB); Kate Jarvis (KJ); and Christina Ruso (CR) joined the meeting.
Carl Gendre (CG) (Assistant Headteacher); and Anita Shelton (AKS) (Office Manager)

Apologies for Absence were received from Nerys Deutsch (ND) – Chair; and Jennifer Mason (JM)

1. Review of Last Meeting

CG reviewed the last meeting; he confirmed that Gender Gap, etc, would be addressed by the Senior Leadership and Local Governing Committee (LGC); also that Sports Day arrangements will be considered later in the year (possibly in the Spring term). It was queried whether the school participates in any swimming galas; school sporting events are organised by other schools and swimming galas are not currently offered.

2. Fundraising Group

It was explained that, following the recent second demise of the PTA, it had been decided not to set up a PTA but to bring fundraising into the school. Therefore a Families & Staff Fundraising Group (FSFG) will be led by Mrs S Howells (EYFS Teacher); all parents/carers will be invited to participate in any way that they can, e.g. wrapping prizes; supervising stalls; baking cakes; etc., each time an event is taking place. LB, who had attended the first FSFG meeting, confirmed that it will be more of a task force than a PTA.

3. Homework

The new homework arrangements had been launched shortly before the last meeting. CG advised that the children are encouraged to do their published work on plain paper, using line guides, but that teachers had been approached about providing lined paper for writing exercises. The meeting indicated that “My Maths” does not provide much for Year 1; they also commented that there has been confusion over which spelling list a child should be learning as they are in different groups.

The project homework has also caused an element of confusion – should the tasks be one per week or one per half term?

As TLCs are taking place this week, the parents were asked to advise the teachers of the confusion and request that communication be clearer.

It was asked whether homework feeds into tracking of children’s progress; CG advised that maths and English homework do; projects are more about extending learning within the topic. CR pointed out that, if a parent has 3 or more children, it can be difficult to make time to work with all of them on their homework whilst still allowing time for family and other activities, especially with all the spellings. CG suggested that the school could provide ‘Top Tips’ for parents with different ways to learn spellings, rather than Look; Cover; Write; Check which can be time consuming.

4. School Improvement Plan (SIP)

CG explained that the SIP is prepared by school leaders, submitted to the LGC, and shared with all staff. A more concise version will also be prepared and shared with parents/carers – by email and on the website. It is anticipated that the 2018-2019 SIP will be shared with parents by the end of this week or early next week. There are five key priorities, all of which will link to the school self-evaluation form (SEF). Parents will have the opportunity to respond to the SIP,

including by questionnaire during the year from the governors. When Ofsted visit they will ask for parents' views; however, parents can access Parentview at any time.

5. Parent Help

ND had asked how parents can help the school; at that time discussion had been taking place about how/whether the Parent Forum could support the PTA. This has now been superseded. The school would like to send a flyer out to parents asking them to advise the school of any skills they have which they could use to support the school.

KJ advised that Mr D Carter had met with parents at the school and asked them to sign up for a range of activities, including gardening, reading, etc. However this appeared to have been 'lost' in the school improvement activities.

(S) Perhaps a weekend could be set up for a 'working party' of volunteers to tackle a number of jobs around the school, e.g. painting/decorating; gardening; etc.

The meeting discussed how parents/carers could sign up – either by email; or with sign-up sheets available in accessible positions around the school.

The best way to draw parents' attention to notices, etc., was also discussed; it was pointed out that a weatherproof A-board had been purchased by the PTA which may be useful for this.

6. Agenda Items Requested for the Next Meeting

a) Review of Volunteers

It was agreed that requests for agenda items are to be emailed to office@stmarysworthing.org.uk for consideration by the Chair and the school.

Key:

(Q) – Question raised and not answered at the meeting.

(S) – Suggestion to be put forward to GI/SLT.

Dates/Times of 2018-2019 Meetings:

Thursday 24th January, 2:00 p.m.

Monday 18th March, 9:00 a.m.

Friday 17th May, 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday 3rd July, 2:00 p.m.