



Parent Forum Meeting Minutes

Date: 27.11.18

9am – 10am

Present: Mrs Hughes and 11 parents.

New Items:

School Development Plan – Mrs Hughes explained a few of the key focus areas on this year's plan.

Writing

Following two successful years focussing on raising standards in reading and maths, we are now concentrating on our teaching and learning in writing. Staff recently attended a training course on the principles of Talk for Writing which is a well-known and successful writing approach. Its main focus is a key text that is based on a book. The story or non-fiction text may be reduced to no more than 350 words that the children learn and can recite aloud. A variety of focussed tasks are completed on this text: disseminating the structure, identifying key features, word games around the vocabulary, to name a few. Children are supported and inspired to write well as they have been given excellent ideas that they can firstly innovate before they create their own independent piece, based on this model. This has been trialled in some year groups over the past years but now staff are enthusiastic to adopt the key elements to ensure the full effects of this excellent structure of writing.

Curriculum Drivers

Mrs Hughes highlighted that as we measured on outcomes in reading, writing, maths and science in Year 2 and 6, there is a risk that our curriculum will be too narrow if that is all we focus on. Events and trips continue to be a priority and parents commented on the History and Family Tree event as children were so keen to see the displays. She explained that following discussion with staff regarding the local community, local and national issues and needs of our intake, three key curriculum drivers were identified. They are:

- Communication – for all pupils to feel confident when speaking to each other, adults and a wider audience. A wide range of opportunities will continue to be planned and staff expectations will be that children will learn their words, if appropriate, and speak clearly. Preparation for job interviews and interpersonal skills is key to success in life.
- Community – an awareness of the people and businesses in our local area that we can support, contribute to and that they may

come in to support our learning regarding local jobs and services.

- Enterprise – that money does not grow on trees! Each year group will discuss and plan an opportunity for the children to raise their own finances towards a project. This may be for the classroom, and event or trip but we hope to instil the understanding that money must be earned, that we need to plan and consider the costs and profit to achieve our goal. A parent suggested that classes could plan from September and have a stall at the Christmas Fair if appropriate.

Information to parents on pupil's progress

Mrs Hughes asked about the question on the parent survey regarding information to parents on pupil progress. This does not get a highly positive result and we wondered what else parents were expecting. She outlined the current information shared during parent evenings, reports but also Welcome to meetings, workshops and opportunities through the year to see children's work. A parent suggested a tapestry style online community for all year groups but a parent, who is also a qualified teacher, clarified that would not be manageable in other year groups due to the structure of the curriculum and assessment times. The discussion focussed on most parents wanting to know about their children's well-being and the lessons being offered, not more number/data reports. Some felt that the end of year report gives that information clearly and most agreed that they like this report, especially its personal comment. A parent, who is also a secondary school teacher, acknowledged the time it must take to write a report with this amount of detail, as the high school reports are much more data specific.

There was a request for more information from each class regarding the lessons and it was suggested that like twitter, a post could be put on the website to share the learning in a particular subject each week, so that parents are kept up to date and could discuss with their children.

A parent shared that they felt the information currently shared was very good and they always felt reassured that they could come in for a meeting with the teacher at any time to discuss progress. Mrs Hughes reassured that pupil progress is discussed with all class teachers every term and any concerns would be raised with parents immediately.

Questions

A parent asked about the request for breakfast club provision. Mrs Hughes explained that Governors have not discussed this yet but are

aware that Claines CE School have recently set up this provision themselves. Mrs Hughes will take to the next Finance Meeting.

Actions:

- Investigate staff posting onto the website regularly and how parents can be alerted to new postings.
- The Finance Committee of the Governing Body to consider the request for breakfast club.