

Parent Forum Meeting

14th February 2019

9:30am

Kildwick School

Members Present:

Mr T Whitehead – Headteacher

2 School Governors

4 Parents

Introduction:

Mr Whitehead welcomed us all to the first parents forum meeting. The purpose of which is to encourage communication and working together on an agreed agenda. Participating together in a constructive way by welcoming ideas that foster a positive ethos. The Parent forum is not a decision making body or a place to discuss individuals. The meetings will be guided by parents – their thoughts on what works well currently and what could be improved in the future for the benefit of the students and the school.

Main Points Covered:

School Communication

Kildwick School Facebook Page.

Many parents felt that the previous Facebook page was a great way to keep up to date with events and information. Unfortunately due to safeguarding issues it was decided by the Board of Governors that the page be taken down for now.

Actions:

A suggestion was that perhaps a new Facebook page could be set up, which would be for a closed group (for parents only). Mr Whitehead agreed to raise this idea at the next Governors meeting this month.

Marvellous Me.

Some parents are finding that they get a lot of communication from this, whereas others are receiving very little.

Actions:

Those staff members that may benefit from more training on this communication tool, will be offered that.

A general inconsistency in where to look for information. The point was raised that at present there are so many different ways of communicating that information often gets overlooked or missed e.g Disco's, World Book Day, After School Clubs, Sporting Events etc.

Actions:

A suggestion put forward was that the school use Parentpay as a way to send reminders out via email and text message to parents, as often letters can be misplaced or information on the weekly newsletters overlooked. TW to look into this idea further.

School Website

The school website is up and running but is not easy to navigate or updated as much as TW would like.

Actions:

The school is hoping to work with a developer called Easable, which many other local schools already use. This will hopefully happen within the next month and be much more user friendly.

Change in school start time.

The general consensus from the meeting, from messages passed through to attendees and via some parents in e-mail correspondence, is that the new staggered start times are working well. Many parents are finding it easier for their commute to work. The children are also finding that there is less of a crowded area, specifically in the cloakroom for Key Stage 2 pupils.

Actions:

To continue with this arrangement.

Playground area and games allowed at break time.

A point was raised that some children are finding playtimes boring, as at present football is not allowed due to H&S issues around the size of the playground and accidents occurring.

Actions:

The Chair of the PTA offered some funds to buy some new equipment for playtimes, such as skipping ropes and soft play items.

TW advised that the school are looking at improving the playground area in time, this will coincide with the proposed changes to the Key Stage 2 entrance, which should hopefully become Mrs Chapmans new office space. The LEA has conducted the feasibility study and TW is waiting to hear back as to whether this has been passed.

This will mean a new entrance for students into the hall, a new cloakroom area and disabled access. The EYFS entrance would also be improved, as would a fence along the EYFS wall, looking onto the church, for safeguarding reasons.

Packed Lunch Boxes

Currently these are placed in a box in the KS2 doorway. A parent raised the point, that perhaps these could be placed in a box with a lid – which would be more hygienic, or that cool packs could be put in there. Specifically in summer time when food may become warm.

Actions:

TW to consider this idea.

Before and After School Club

When the club was privately owned there was a surplus of funds that were transferred to the school. A suggestion was made that these funds be used to improve some of the facilities on offer by the club. TW advised, that yes there is a surplus at present and that currently sits with the school bursar and is totally separate from the school funds.

As the club has now been taken from a private business, to under the school remit, it cannot operate on a negative budget, which it is often close to doing. The parish rooms may require some updating

and safety features installing, if that is the case then those funds would be used for those requirements in the first instance.

Actions:

TW to work with Club staff members on the ongoing requirements of the club, which may also include further staff training.

Revision of School Vision

TW advised that the school have been working with children, governors and staff to update the Vision in time for the imminent inspection by SIAMs and going forward – OFSTED. The schools vision as a church school, must have an underpinning of Christian values.

TW showed us copies of the ideas for the new logo and Vision statement.

Actions:

To update parents on the changes once a final decision has been made. To take into consideration some of the ideas of the parent forum participants.

Future Parent Forum Meetings

Some parents had passed on that they would have liked to have attended the initial meeting but were unable to, due to the time and working commitments. The suggestion was made, that in future meetings, we will offer different times and days, so that all parents/carers get the chance to attend, should they wish.

Actions:

To arrange the next meeting for an afternoon or early evening slot, so that parents who work can attend. There will be one parent forum meeting every term.