

Parent Forum Meeting
31st January 2019
9:15am
Kildwick School

Members Present:

Mr T Whitehead – Headteacher
1 School Governor
11 Parents

Introduction:

Mr Whitehead welcomed us all to the 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:

The main focus of today's forum was to discuss some of the feedback from the parent questionnaire.

School Communication.

TW asked if we had any suggestions on how we could improve the way that the school communicates with parents and carers.

One suggestion was that the school could provide parents with a leaflet that explains how and when events take place, especially new parents and pupils.

Or perhaps a suggestion for new parents to set up their own WhatsApp group. One year group in particular have one set up. Initiated in Reception, it has proved to be a really useful way to keep in touch and bounce questions off each other.

TW requested a reference person that could move this idea forwards. Can a member of the PTA take ownership of that idea so that we can do it for the new year?

(a small group of parents/PTA have volunteered to make a start on pulling this together).

Some parents feel that at present there doesn't seem to be a consistent means of communication. Could we therefore set a standard way of communicating- e.g. a text message for activities that are occurring that day or week, rather than just e-mail. TW to look at.

The parent forum is seen as a useful way of encouraging thoughts and ideas. However, not all parents can attend during school hours. TW will look at holding some of the meetings on different days and times to enable other parents and carers to attend.

Can school put on Marvellous Me when a parent evening slip will be placed into bags so that parents know to look for it. TW to look into having an online booking system for parents evening.

Marvellous Me. Some classes get more in-depth information and updates than others. TW to encourage all Teaching staff to use the marvellous me app more. One parent suggested even a

monthly update, something specific to each child but not making it too onerous a task for the teachers.

As a school we can set up an idea letter for new parents as to how the PTA works, how group WhatsApp can be arranged.

TW asked how parents felt the school newsletter was received. One suggestion was that some parents scan read it and could school look at the format of the newsletter. Perhaps using mail chimp, which can help the information to pop which may then reach more parents.

Other feedback was that the newsletter is still a very useful way of keeping up to date with what is happening in school and that it is the parents/carers responsibility to ensure they read them thoroughly.

PTA

TW started by extending his Thanks to all the new helpers and volunteers on the PTA, the Christmas fair worked brilliantly and was a great success.

Two parents have kindly volunteered to help out with the finance part of the role once Mrs Armitage steps down.

Lisa Snell would like help with the Valentines disco. One of the new volunteer parents will be writing a letter to all parents to make and gather suggestions and ideas going forwards, but also to ask for volunteers from every year group if possible.

We have welcomed into school 5 new children and parents since Christmas. As a new parent to a new school it can be daunting getting to know new parents and members of groups such as the PTA. A suggestion was made that on the website there could be a section with the PTA members picture and a short piece of information about why they joined the PTA, so that new parents will know who they are and who to talk to should they wish to volunteer or help out.

A suggestion regarding donations to PTA and charity events was made. Could there be a way to donate a bulk amount at the beginning of the year for the calendared events such as summer event, Christmas fair etc. So that parents don't have to remember to bring a donation to each separate event. TW advised that South Craven School do something similar and that he would look into what that entailed.

Christmas

It was raised that some parents feel overwhelmed by the amount of activities that happen around the Christmas period and could the school split some of the events into the year to make it a bit less hectic.

TW advised that The Santa fun run won't be taking place next year. A suggestion was to do an Easter/run event instead.

Christmas fair is now at the end of November so that it's not too close to Christmas and also gives parents and children the chance to purchase gifts in plenty of time.

Many parents said that although busy, they and their children enjoy the hustle and bustle on the run up to Christmas

A parent requested that on the next parent questionnaire, could one of the questions be - whether parents/carers find all of the Christmas activities too much? TW advised that he would take that on board.

Other Correspondence

An e-mail was received about car parking, there have been complaints about parking on yellow lines, parking in front of the church steps and blocking access as well as pulling onto pavements and blocking access there too.

All at the meeting were in agreement that there is plenty of parking and parents and carers should be using these areas to park safely and without obstruction.

TW to work with a parent and the School Council, looking at ways to encourage all parents and carers to be mindful about the safety of all, when dropping off and picking up our children.

Future Parent Forum Meetings

Actions:

The next parent forum will take place in the Spring Term.