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Notes from Parent Forum November 2018

Thank you to all the parents who came, it was lovely to see some new faces as well as those who often come. It is really helpful and important for us to hear your feedback and understand what we can try to do to improve our school for you and the children.

Below are notes about the topics discussed and actions that will be taken:

- New Parents to the school do not know about some things e.g. where to sign up for parents evening, where to get menus, that things are emailed out plus more. Some of our new parents have agreed to get together and write down these things and also suggested Buddying parents up with those that have been here a while.

ACTION: A group of parents to get together to write down the things parents need to know and the school to share this with all new parents.

- Children seem to be coming out later and later from a variety of classes in school. Please could children be ready to come out at 3.30 (or 3.15 for Toy Box) as parents are getting late for other things.

ACTION: Staff to get children out of the class at 3.30

- One parent feels the comprehension Harriers get is very helpful and feels this would be useful to have in Year 4. Others disagreed with this.
- Parents would like all homework completed to come back home so they can see the result and feedback. Please could spelling results be put in planners, the children can write them in.

ACTION: Homework to be sent home once marked. Children to write spelling test score in planners – teachers to encourage this.

- There was a question about Mathletics and TT rock stars – It was explained that the school's subscription to Mathletics is coming to an end and due to cost and the fact that many children have not been using this, it will not be renewed. The children in Year 3 – 6 have a log in to TT rock stars and should be using this weekly, if not daily, to improve their times tables. One of the reasons the school has chosen this programme is that it helps the children prepare for the government Y4 online Times Tables test. The Year 2s will be given a log in sometime in the New Year, once they have been taught some more times tables.
- Attendance at workshops and parent sessions the school puts on. The school have worked hard to put sessions on for parents but are concerned that not many people are attending. Those who have attended have assured us that these sessions have been useful. We do know that not everyone can attend at the specific time we put the session on

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which is why we try to vary the times. Parents suggested: to have a signing up sheet outside the classroom, use the children to encourage parents (invitations etc), put it in the planners, mention it at Celebration Worship, specific email about this to the year group.

ACTIONS: To advertise the sessions in a greater number of ways

- Weekly Reminders – it was suggested that anything new should be put in bold or red to draw help parents notice the new items.

ACTION: Make new items clear through colour

- Parents were positive about the PE coaches and clubs being run. Some parents felt we should encourage the children to attend a club if their name was down, even if they are saying they want to go home or just get ready to go home. The school will try to do this, especially if it is written on the class sheet so the adult in class at the end of the day knows the child should be attending the club.
- Parents have asked if they could be contacted if their child is getting a cup, especially if they don't normally attend. It was discussed that this can be hard as the decisions are made at lunchtime Friday and the office is busy Friday afternoon but we will try to contact people when we can.

ACTION: The office will try to call parents on a Friday if their child is getting a cup.

- Last Parent Forum Mrs Edson discussed running a Coffee Morning once a month for parents after drop off. We had not done anything about it but have arranged for this to start this Friday.

ACTION: Coffee Morning to run the last Friday in the month 9.00 – 10.00. Parents to attend!

Reading and planners:

- Some parents feel it is too restrictive to put exact page numbers in for older children who read pages and pages each night.
- Parents felt that if there was not enough home reading being done by a child that teachers should bring it up at parents evening .
- It was asked about whether Y2 were going on to AR as a motivator. I explained about the lack of low level books that the school had and the fact that many we have looked at previously were picture books and not as effective for learning to read as the ones we use at the moment. This parent is going to look at the titles at the bottom end in her school and let us know. We can then ask parents if they have any and possibly approach PTFA
- The children haven't got AR targets set this term and these are not always realistic. The parents (and children) feel the target needs to be a challenge.
- Some children tell parents they are not allowed to do their AR tests.
- Parents not sure who changes/checks books in Cygnets. These are done by the parents themselves, the children and the volunteers who hear readers and at times school staff. The teachers hear the children read through Guided Reading sessions each week, but very rarely individually due to the fact that they are teaching the class and groups.

ACTIONS:

- AR targets to be set by all teachers
- Teachers to talk to individual parents about the lack of reading in the planners
- Children can write their own reading in planners but it is essential that parents talk to children about their reading and also hear them read, whatever age they are
- Teachers will make sure children get to do AR tests in the day, but children do need to ask at an appropriate time of day e.g. first thing or in the reading session.
- Teachers will stamp when they have heard children read in Guided Reading session.

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