

MEETING NOTES



MEETING: Parent Panel	
DATE: 20 July 2022	TIME: 9.00 am
VENUE: Seaburn Dene Primary School	
PRESENT: L Cuthbertson - Parent J K Howe – Head Teacher T Mercer - Parent L Mewes - Parent S O'Neill - Parent	
IN ATTENDANCE: L Halliday – School Business Manager – Note Taker	

Mr Howe welcomed parents to the meeting. Noted that the main purpose of the meetings is to ascertain what school does well, and what could be done better. The following points were raised / discussed:

- Meetings to be held every half term - diary dates to be arranged, with the hope of more attendees at future meetings.
- Honest parent feedback, together with open discussion is important for the benefit of children, parents and school.
- Communication;
 - Encourage more parental engagement e.g. FaceBook, DoJo, Email.
 - Parents should be encouraged to join the FaceBook group as many were not members.
 - Mr Howe pointed out that the FaceBook group is run by the Friends Group, not the school.
 - Friends Group could increase promotion of their FaceBook group, as the group would be able to answer many questions raised by parents.
 - Class DoJo is noted to have massively improved communication.
 - Noted that Class DoJo is not expected to give 24/7 access to staff who are not expected to answer any queries “out of hours”.
 - Class DoJo has the facility to set up an out of hours automatic response to parents which some staff make use of.
 - Email is the preferred choice, as opposed to Class DoJo, in the case of health and safety, or safeguarding issues.

- All events listed on Class DoJo are included on the school website calendar.
- The use of the school website, as a source of all information, is important.
- Class DoJo is helpful in relaying messages at short notice.
- Class DoJo is known to get quite full, which can result in difficulty finding some things, which perhaps could be sent as messages.
- Maths and English reviews by the Local Education Authority (LEA);
 - School invites the School Improvement Officers of the LEA to carry out the reviews
 - The reviews are likened to a “mini” OFSTED inspection.
 - Such reviews have been delayed due to Covid.
 - The school works in partnership with other schools e.g. Grange Park, Dame Dorothy, some labelled as outstanding, to make our school the best it can be for the pupils.
 - Positive reports received from the School Improvement Officers which noted the school’s investment in the library and reading.
- Uniform;
 - Lack of the logo is a positive step.
 - Relaxation of the uniform rules, allowing the pupils to wear PE kit in the recent extremely hot weather was appreciated.
 - Uniform needs to be comfortable - noted that KS3 pupils have no alternative to their uniform.
 - Wearing polo shirts in hot weather may be an option worth considering, as long as the polo shirts include the school badge.
- Home Learning;
 - There is no paper homework. All homework is online.
 - Expectations of all year groups are being set.
 - Options being considered include Google Classroom and Class DoJo. Information will be shared, by each year group, at the beginning of next term.
 - Consistency would be appreciated as opposed to receiving the homework intermittently, as sometimes happens, and can therefore be easily missed.
 - Consistency in having the same approach to each subject across school is important.
 - Receipt of homework by each Friday would enable completion on the Friday night which would be preferable to some parents.
 - Reminders sent out each Friday would be helpful to some parents.
 - Setting dates is left to the teaching staff, but the way in which the homework is set should be consistent throughout school.
 - The use of Oxford Reading Buddy will be increased next term. This links into reading in school, the quiz is set at the appropriate level for the pupil, and teachers move pupils on as appropriate.
 - Online phonics access within Oxford Reading Buddy is important.
 - Choices of library books are entirely individual pupil choice. Important for a child to enjoy and remember a story read as a youngster, ideally with their parents.
- Attendance;

- The Government will be setting attendance targets next year.
- Parents are currently fined following 11 days of unauthorised absence of their child. This is to be drastically reduced by the Government.
- Important that parents realise that it is the Government setting such targets, not school.
- Also important to realise the need for so many pupils to catch up following lockdowns during Covid. Although KS2 results were excellent this year, KS1 was impacted greatly by the pandemic.
- Weekly attendance monitoring meetings in school identify any problems. School no longer uses an external provider for monitoring. Letters are issued by school. The importance of school working with parents to improve attendance is significant.
- Attendance impacts massively on learning, and school has to justify how attendance is monitored and handled within school.
- School Promotion;
 - The school location, and sometimes existence, is not well known.
 - Achievement could be used as a unique selling point.
 - Achievement is a part of the process to maximise where children are now, but it is important to encourage children to have their own dreams and be confident about their next steps.
 - School aims to find something a child is good at, and give that child the confidence to express themself.
 - Mindset is a big part of school life. Mistakes are part of the journey - children are not punished for making mistakes - mistakes are not seen as negatives.
 - All of the above are important considerations in the promotion of our school.
- Miscellaneous feedback;
 - Sports Day; the split into two half days this year made it more accessible with a better format.
 - Transition; Meet and Greet - positive experience. Any non-attendance was largely due to familiarity with the teaching staff. Mr Howe to explore more opportunities for parents to be able to come into school.
 - Curriculum; The curriculum for the whole school year has been mapped out. There will be an emphasis on reading and maths, together with priority for sports and performing arts in order to increase engagement opportunities.
 - Assemblies; parents will be invited to some celebration and singing assemblies. Sometimes children will be leading the assemblies - parents of those children will be invited. However, notice to attend such assemblies may be short.
 - Questionnaires; Mr Howe stressed the importance and benefit of questionnaires being completed when requested.

NAME:

DESIGNATION:

J K Howe	Head Teacher
DATE:	SIGNATURE: <i>John Howe.</i>