

Parent forum minutes

DATE:8/11/2023	TIME 9.30	VENUE/VIRTUAL: Virtual Meeting
Attendees: R Lane Headteacher, June Lambert FSW Minute Taker, Rose Cappello SENCO		
Rachel Belekadu, Eneida Ramos, Anna Grupa, Adam Akakorten, Schainez Chanaen, Toby Edwards, Mapana Bonuyh, Iskuilan Malin, Daniela Kolev, Francis Danso, Rukiya Omar, Costa De Oliveira, Ken Ng, Princess Sinkinson, Mrs Elmi. There were six additional attendees.		
Introduction and Presentation from Head Teacher		
The session started with parents being shown a sneak preview of the new website and comments were invited. These were recorded in the chat.		
Mr Lane spoke about the aims and objectives of the meeting, he said this was to highlight and discuss the areas of the school that could improve and to consult on policy.		
Ground rules were set out, all attendees to treat each other with dignity and respect and not to interrupt whilst someone is speaking. This is not a forum for complaint and that the children's school experience should be the heart of the discussion.		
TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED		
Parents were encouraged to use a Menti.com QR code to forward their suggestions for today's meeting.		
Parents did so and the results were shared and are listed below.		
Trips		
Home learning		
Keeping children active		
Healthy eating		
Curriculum		
Atmosphere new rules.		
Francis Danso – School Trips		
Francis suggested that school trips could be improved in terms of variety and also making use of the local area. Francis pointed out how close the school is to Tottenham Hale station, ideally located for the children to explore wider horizons. Also the school could invite authors and scientists to visit the school to inspire children.		
Mr Lane shared the actions to enrich the curriculum.		
SLT has created a plan of trips that matches the curriculum for year groups.		
A Police Officer, a member of the Fire service and a Chef have visited the school. It has been recognised that there is need for a wider variety of visitors.		
Francis Danso		
Francis was pleased that it happens, suggested that partnerships could be made with the Markfield Project. Markfield had a carnival and Earlsmead school was invited. He felt we could do better in terms of partnerships.		

Mr Lane agreed that yes we need to get more involved with community opportunities.

Anna Grupa

Anna was in agreement with Francis about the children attending more local trips. For example, a visit to Tottenham Stadium, perhaps invite a footballer to the school.

Toby Edwards

Toby agreed with previous parents about local projects, he asked if the Forest school is still utilized, and if this could be used more.

Mr Lane confirmed that it is still being used and with a carefully mapped curriculum across school activities, it could be further utilized.

Francis Danso

Francis suggested that The forest school in the Marches would be perfect for the children to visit.

Ken Ng

Curriculum

Ken felt that the curriculum is not challenging enough, he thinks that the school should push for more, raise the whole standard of the school. He mentioned that the UK did not do that well compared to international statistics. The teachers needed to push more particularly if the child is interested.

Daniela Kolev

Daniela feels the same about the curriculum, her child is not challenged enough. He often says that the work is too easy, and the homework is completed in about 3 minutes, it is repetitive and not challenging enough.

Anna Grupa

Anna said that she had met more bored than challenged children

Mr Lane responded by explaining that the approach to teaching and learning was based on research and that prior to 2014 stretching was used in school. The DFE guidelines stated that students needed to demonstrate a greater depth of knowledge across a broad range of subjects.

He will take the notes on board, adding that reasoning and application is of a high level of expectation rather than the content itself.

Ken Ng

Ken said he still felt that the school could add further challenge for his children through application. Perhaps a maths tournament could be used to challenge and stretch the children.

Mr Lane said he thought that this was a very good suggestion.

Mrs Elmi

Mrs Elmi agreed with Ken. felt that there could be talent shows and Art projects for the children to take part in. She said that she thought that teaching was focused on SEN children and not towards children who needed a challenge.

Princess Sinkinson

Home Learning

Princess said that the homework did not recap what was learnt at school. She said her child finished the homework very easily, and that she had to find other ways to support his learning. Her older daughter a Kayla has found homework at secondary school a big shock, due to the amount. Perhaps there could be more preparation for this before children leave year 6.

Anna Grupa

Anna said that children receive the Homework but there was no consequence if this was not done. There was no appreciation for the completed work, no gallery of homework. She said this was not helpful for their future lives.

Princess Sinkinson

Princess also felt that parents do not always support their children with home learning and that some believed that work should only be done in school.

Mr Lane explained that a balance needs to be maintained and that there were 21 activities on the Home Learning menu. Home learning should however match what is done at school, he agreed that this needs to be reviewed – and that excellent home learning should be celebrated.

Recap

Educational visits should take full advantage of the resources in the local area. Invite inspirational people to the school and get involved in local projects.

Home learning

Stretch plus challenge

Some pupils find the work too easy, there should be more celebration and appreciation of this one size does not fit all.

Research shows us that there is not much difference with primary aged children's achievement with home learning. However, with older children there is more impact.

A follow up date to be shared with the community 23rd January