

Minutes of Welbourne Primary School Parents' Forum

Date: Tuesday 20/2/24	Time: 2.30pm	Venue: School Staff Room
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Attendees: R Lane Headteacher, S Iyoyo - Minute Taker

Parents/Carers: Ibrache Pinto, Tchissola Pinto, Saeeda Bibi, Evelyn Ponce, Karen Seaton, Ken Ng, Gloria Asante-Mensah, Claudine Duberry, Lucy Braithwaite, Filis Dzhemadiu, Albean Radostinova, Angeline, Herlander Lima, Gantcho Deltchev, Justin Thompson, Faiza Abdulle, Meltem Kolcak, Manyer Deryadeniz, Elvis Irodia, Annie Luong, Alina Perehinska, Mustafa Kemal Tas, Juela Pushaj, Mariana Boitsun, Ellane Ishimwe, Rosario Rodriguez, Rateb Alkanan, Madeline Sen, Mavinga Mariam

1. Welcome

Mr Lane said that it was fantastic to see so many people in attendance for the meeting. Parents/Carers introduced themselves and gave reasons as to why they were at the meeting.

2. Home Learning updates

At the last meeting, home learning was discussed. Many parents had differing views on the subject. Some parents can find home learning too formal, while others would like more. Mr Lane explained that when it comes to home learning Welbourne follows a research based approach. Research has shown that home learning doesn't have the same impact on younger children as it does with secondary school age children. The home learning menu has now undergone some updates. A box has been added to describe how we will celebrate home learning.

The celebration will mean that some children work completed will be being used in classroom displays, published in the newsletter and a new system based on bingo. Every child will get a bingo ticket and for every piece of home learning work completed the ticket will be stamped. Every full bingo line stamped, will earn a minutes extra playtime for the class to be used at the end of a half term. This will hopefully encourage children to work collectively towards a group reward by giving them an incentive and focus on the positive aspects of home learning. Gantcho said that home learning gives children a sense a responsibility and makes them better prepared for the day. R Lane shared his experience of when he was at school and said that children are more motivated if they do an activity they like doing. This new system gives them something to work towards and will encourage children to have a further purpose to complete home learning.

3. RSHE Policy

Mr Lane said that is statutory that parents are consulted every year on the policy. There are topics in the policy that need to be taught by law and topics the school choses to teach. Parents can withdraw the child from topics that are not statutory. Parents will be invited to a meeting to look at the resources. There will also be a wider consultation meeting, likely to be held online. If they would like to withdraw their child after the meeting has been held they will need to sign a form.

The policy is available to look at on the school website. Mr Meehan came into the meeting while this agenda item was being discussed. Mr Meehan said that he would be happy to meet with parents one to one to discuss any concerns they may have. He explained that the RSHE policy is based around child safety and protection.

4. Educational visits in the early years

Every year group will be taking part in educational visits. Early years will be going to a nearby farm. Nursery will start to take part in local visits in small groups and will be good if parents are able to help out. Claudine asked if there were any trips planned for Year 6. In the past there were trips to theme parks and big zoos etc. Mr Lane said that

Year 6 normally go to the London Eye and Pendarren annually. Also, class trips are linked to what year groups are studying on the curriculum.

5. Lunchtime conversation

At the last meeting, the idea was shared about reducing the children's lunchtime from an hour to 45 minutes. This provoked a mixed response. Mr Lane explained that there has been a reduction in support staff over the last 10 years. Every class used to have a TA but currently there are 5 spread over 13 classes (this number does not include Reception classes). At the moment, TAs are pulled from classrooms to support at lunchtime if an SMSA calls in sick. This can interrupt what the class teacher can offer. The idea where the 45 minutes lunch break comes from is that TAs would not need to be pulled from supporting class teachers and SMSAs would be able to support two years groups for example. SMSAs are employed for 1.5 hours each day. R Lane said that feedback has not been given by teachers yet so a wider consultation needs to take place.

Mr Lane said that he thought that a 45 minute lunch break could work and mentioned the potential benefits;

- Improved behaviour in the playground,
- More supervision,
- Teachers directed time is less affected,
- Less impact on TAs,
- Possibility of running lunchtime clubs,
- Increased capacity to support child with SEN.
- SMSAs would be able to access more training.

Possible drawbacks:

- Staff may prefer to keep the hour for lunchbreak.
- A shorter school day may impact working parent (although breakfast club and after school club would not be affected)
- Children may feel the need to rush eating so that can have more playtime
- Children benefit from social interaction with their peers and there would be less time for this.

Mr Lane said that nothing is changing at the moment until a full consultation has taken place with staff and parents.

Parents are invited to come to school on the 7th March to have a lunchtime experience. This will be set up so they can taste the food on offer and have a similar experience to the children. The menu has been changed following feedback from parents. There is now less cake on the menu. There is more fruit, jelly, cheese and crackers on the menu and cake offered once a week. Faiza mentioned that her children are gluten free and it would be good if their dietary requirements are catered for. Mr Lane said that allergens are displayed on menus and it can be challenging to cater for all. There are 3 options for lunch on a daily basis and these choices consider the range of allergens children may need to avoid. The menu offers children healthy options. The menu is on a 4 week cycle and available to look at on the schools website.

6. AOB. Next Meeting and future items

Justin explained that his daughter in Year 5 wanted him to come to the meeting so he can put her concerns forward about getting dressed for PE in front of boys. He said that as children get older they feel more self-conscious. Mr Lane explained that in general, Year 5 and Year 6 pupils are segregated when it they get changed for PE. At the moment, it slightly tricky due to lack of space. Once we get more classroom space back when building works are completed it should be easier for children to change more discreetly for PE.

Mr Lane asked parents if they would be interested in coming into school to meet a curriculum lead so they can see how children learn about a subject. Historically if you call it a workshop you don't have good attendance. Mr Lane explained that recently reception classes have been holding family phonics sessions in the classroom and they have been well attended. If parents have any ideas of what they would like to know about, they can email the school admin address. Claudine also mentioned that there are Friends of Welbourne WhatsApp groups where parents can share information and find out what is happening at school.

Justin wanted to mention that he felt that there has been a marked improvement in communication from Welbourne over the last 12 months. He said that the new website is much better to use, the learning cafes and newsletter are good as well.

The next meeting will be held after the Easter break as there will be more space available. Claudine was nominated to collect agenda items for the next meeting, this can be done in the Friends of Welbourne WhatsApp parent groups.

Mr Lane said that he would be good if Friends of Welbourne have any fundraising events coming up as it has been a while since the last one.

**NEXT MEETING TUESDAY 16 APRIL 2024
VENUE: WELBOURNE PRIMARY SCHOOL**