

Parent Group Notes, 13th March 2019

We held our Parent Group meeting on 13th March 2019. It was very positive and was incredibly supportive, with many positive comments and some suggestions on how to improve our school to parent/carer partnership.

These are the notes from the meeting that cover most of the key points discussed. They are not meant to be an exhaustive record of the meeting.

- Communication -
 - Aim for consistency in the format of communication, for example, send all letters via ParentMail rather than some by hand and some via email.
 - Parents would like to have at least 2 weeks' notice for school trips and events, although it was accepted that occasionally opportunities arise for the children at short notice.
 - Parent Group felt that Class Dojo was a good form of communication.
 - School could set up a Facebook account. The feeling of Parent Group is that this would be well received.
 - One parent suggested it would be beneficial to see the whole half term in an overview of dates and events (although most of these are on the newsletter?) or access to an online calendar- perhaps one that can be synced to your mobile device.
 - Parents would like to know more about the curriculum. Not all parents have received a Curriculum Newsletter.
 - It was also felt that the SATs results could be explained to parents to help them better understand what this means for their children and the school

- Parent expressed an interest in helping out in school more. They said that they would be willing to help with allsorts from reading with children to putting up displays, helping in the office or helping out with garden and grounds upkeep

- We talked about rewards for consistently good behaviour and shared ideas on how this could be done. One idea was to have a 'wall of fame' for celebrating the achievements of children. We also talked about rewarding through responsibility (i.e. if you are good you can gain more responsibility around the school). Another suggestion was to have a weekly trophy or medal. The idea of the postcards being sent home was also suggested – this is something that school is due to implement very soon.

- One or two parents felt that class attendance rewards were unfair as this could be impacted by one or two children who had medical needs or were off for longer-periods of time for illness. However, all parents agreed that attendance was very important and promoting good attendance was worthwhile.

- We talked briefly about current plans for the school, including what's happening with the school extension. This led to a discussion about how to raise money and all agreed that the PTA were doing a great job of organising events to support good causes for the school (currently raising money for new playground equipment). One parent suggested that some parents may prefer to just donate money to the school and that another local school they have set up an instalment system (the latter was to help parents spread the cost of trips and

other school activities). On the point of money, Mr Woodford shared his concerns over a tightening school budget! Parents were very supportive and understanding.

What are your Core Beliefs in education?

Mr Woodford was keen to gain a parents' perspective on how parents see education and what they really believe is important. Below are some of the examples that were shared:

- Learning the basics
- Life skills –
 - politeness
 - social skills
 - manners
 - interaction
 - behaviour
 - respect
 - empathy
 - responsibility
 - friendship building

- Equality and diversity
- Future learning
- Rewards – achievement for learning, celebrating improvements, consistency across the school
- Personal goals

What should we include in the Rowhams Curriculum?

Mr Woodford also asked what parents felt should be included in the curriculum:

- Increase time spent in PE
- Life skills, for example, cooking
- Mental health and wellbeing – mindfulness, bullying and the impact of this
- Embracing different cultures, for example, food religion, cultures, different countries and their customs
- Memorable experiences
 - Trips, outdoor activities
 - Outdoor gardening
 - Forest school type activities

It was felt that the school did offer a varied curriculum but Mr Woodford agreed that there always ways to make it better still.

Finally, Mr Woodford shared the school's Core Beliefs and the Strategic Vision 2019 with the parents. These will be sent out to all parents.

Next meeting date: 1st May 2019, 9.00am

Best wishes,

Tim Woodford, Headteacher