

Parent Forum Minutes 16th March 2018

Present:

Mrs Evison, Mrs Shackleton, Mrs Suckling, Rev Lyn Hallam, Mrs Stuart, Mrs Talbot, Mr Weber, Mr Medhurst, Mrs Sioma, Mrs Richardson, Mrs Mumford, Mr Spencer, Ms O'Callaghan

Welcome and Apologies for absence

Mr Pool, Mrs McLellan, Mrs Allington

Opening prayer from Rev Lyn Hallam

1. Minutes and matters arising from meeting on 7th February.

- **Keston Bank-** Parent Forum Reps have brought it to the attention of their class and will continue to promote it.
- **Minutes of meeting to be added to the school's website.** This is in the process of being completed; we are currently awaiting the hosting company to add the facility for this onto the website.
- **Feedback from EYFS/KS1 parents as to what style of parents evening they would like in the autumn term-** Parents would like a short group meeting at the start of the autumn term to meet the teacher, discuss what they will be doing in the year and ask any necessary questions they have. They would then like to have a one to one consultation with the teacher later in the term.
- **Skype Consultations-** We are currently unable to provide Skype meetings due to the lack of confidential rooms. As technology progresses we will review the situation. It was noted that some parents felt it was inappropriate.
- **Marvellous Me-** 85% of parents signed up. We send out logins to those parents who are not using the APP. Both Mrs Evison and the teachers are now using it to keep parents informed. Positive feedback received from Parent Forum Reps. Parent quick reference guide was attached with the weekly newsletter on 16/3/18.
- **Homework Books-** Books or folders have been implemented in all classes. Feedback was very positive. Teachers do not have the spare capacity to email homework to parents. Children must be responsible for their H/W books and when it should be completed by.
- **Trust competitions-** The Trust currently offers the following festivals/competitions:-choir/music celebration, art, cross country, KS1 Gym (held at Keston), Poetry Slam, Big Debate, Maths and Science Challenge, science/Darwin Day and various year group church festivals. The school and Trust are hoping to expand events. Mrs Shackleton explained that a parent at St Georges is running a careers week at the school and she will put her in touch with the PTA to share ideas.
- Concerns were raised again that certain children are always picked for competitions. Mrs Evison reiterated that there is a spreadsheet of who has been picked for sporting events, as well as other information such as Head

Teachers Awards and parts in plays etc. It was suggested that the AAC conduct a survey to find out what talents the children have which we may not be aware of.

2. Monitoring Visit Update

Dr McCarthy the School's Improvement Director recently visited Keston to conduct her termly monitoring review. She went into all classes, looked at a variety of books and talked to the subject leaders. A positive review was given by Dr McCarthy who will follow up with her report shortly.

3. Equality Policy Working Party-All stakeholders are asked to review 3 Trust Equality documents. The AAC have reviewed them and their only comment was that we did not have an alternative faith room for religious observance for both staff and children. Parent Forum Reps have been asked to let us have their views by Friday 23rd March. All parents at the school will be sent the 3 documents in the week of 19th March.

4. Christian Values-Mrs Ross asked the forum to work in pairs and look at the British and Christian values we follow. She would like to streamline these and focus on 5. The children will also be asked to choose. The results will be compiled and the 5 most popular values will be chosen. Mrs Sioma mentioned the family service at Keston Church, the first Sunday of every month. Please can we promote this in the newsletter.

5. School Uniform-

The Dept of Education produces guidelines for schools in respect of uniform. The main issues are with girls wearing slip on ballerina shoes, boys wearing trainers and non-standard bags being used instead of book bags.

It was agreed that we would amend our uniform policy to state that girls can wear loafers but not ballerina style slip on shoes and reiterate that only Y6 can use their own choice of bag.

Summer Uniform-Parents were unsure when the children should change into summer uniform. We have no set timescale but it is usually after the Easter break and up until October half term. However it is up to parents to decide as the weather can be so unpredictable.

6. Weather Policy -

Following the recent bad weather it was explained how the school made the decision to stay open. It was felt that the message sent out to parents to say that the school was open was too late at 8am.

- Mrs Evison contacts the site manager at 6am to ascertain if he can get in. When he arrives at school he advises her on the conditions.
- She also contacts staff to see who can get in. A decision is then made based on the above. We did inform parents by School Comms that school would be open unless a communication was sent out. It was agreed that in future a text message would be sent out but only if we have to close the school early due to bad weather.

7. Any other business-

Y6 Homework-Why has the Y6 homework increased so much since February half term?

Y6 are still covering the curriculum until February. Once completed revision books are sent home and homework should take no more than half an hour per night. Parents felt that they should have been informed of this. It was agreed that at the beginning of the year during the meet the teacher talk this would be explained and reiterated at the SATS meeting.

(Having followed this up, Mrs Treharne did show parents the revision books at the SATS meeting in October and stated that homework levels would increase).

Too many emails sent out each week making it difficult for parents and often info is missed-Can we send one email out at the end of the week containing all necessary info?

This isn't practical as emails are sent out for many reasons, some to individual classes, some to the whole school and it would be very difficult to keep track of what is to be sent out on a Friday. Mrs Shackleton will however speak with Bishop Justus at the Trust to see how their communication system works.

Y1 Making bird feeders with nuts-We are a nut free school. Will discuss with the class teacher.

Online Safeguarding Training for Parents-The school has purchased an online safeguarding course for parents which will be launched soon. Please can Parent Forum Reps complete the course and promote it to their class.

8. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 9th May 9-10am

Actions

- Parent Forum members to continue to promote Keston Bank and complete the online safeguarding training course for parents and ask their class to complete it once launched.
- Mrs Shackleton to liaise with parent at St Georges and our PTA and discuss communication with Bishop Justus.
- The AAC to conduct a talent scouting survey.
- Parent Forum Reps to review the 3 Equality Documents by Friday 23rd March and provide feedback.
- Mrs Suckling to mention the Keston Church Family Service in the newsletter.
- Mrs Evison to amend school uniform policy.
- Y6 parents to be informed about homework policy earlier in the year.