

## **Parents' Forum: 12.6.09**

We were delighted to welcome 12 parents to our first meeting, with Mr. Burden, Mrs. Richards and Mrs. Mallender (Governor).

The forum is intended to be a two way communication tool between parents and the school, and we hope to be able to use it to listen to parents' thoughts and ideas, as well as feed back our own.

It was decided that the meetings should be half-termly.

Subjects covered:

- New Target/grade cards
- Dismissal procedures
- Contact with School Governors
- Non pupil days
- Classes in September
- Crèche for parents' meetings
- Photography at school events
- New suggestions

### **Target/grade cards**

Mr. Burden produced on the projector an example of the new cards that the school hope to trial in September for a year.

The aim of the cards is to keep parents better informed of their child's attainment and effort and set a target for improvement; they will be sent home every half term.

The parents present were all in favour of the cards, and agreed that National Curriculum grades for attainment would be good.

### **Dismissal procedures**

An email question had been received with regard to where parents wait to collect their children, with a request that we return to waiting at the main gate. Some discussion amongst the parents present concluded that it was better to remain waiting at the far gate, but that both gates should be open, and parents encouraged to walk further into the school rather than congregating around the gate.

### **Contact with Governors**

Some parents present felt that they did not know who the governors were, and did not have enough contact with them. Many felt it was a shame that the Annual Parents meeting with Governors no longer took place, and that the report was no longer issued. Mrs. Richards commented that the minutes of all governors meetings were available for parents to read (except confidential matters). Some discussion followed, and Mrs. Mallender suggested that we reinstate the annual meeting in a more informal manner. Mrs. Richards also agreed to set up a Governors page on the new school website, where photographs of governors could be published, together with copies of minutes.

## **Non pupil days**

The majority of parents present were extremely happy that three non pupil days had been added to the half term holiday. It was noted, however, that working parents need as much notice as possible, if this is to be repeated. Mrs. Richards to put a note in the newsletter requesting feedback from the main parent body.

Mrs. Richards explained that the school were still awaiting notification of the date of next years KS2 SATS tests, as it was rumoured that these will be changing. As soon as we are aware, non pupil days could be set.

## **Classes in September**

Parents asked who would be teaching which classes in September. This decision has not been finalised, and parents will be notified in the usual way at report time.

## **Creche for parents' meetings**

It was noted that meetings such as the Ofsted meeting were at a difficult time for many parents, unless a crèche was available. Many parents offered to be part of a rota for future meetings. Mrs. Richards will put a note in the newsletter requesting volunteers. The optimum time for parents meetings seems to be 6.30 p.m.

## **Photography at school events**

Some discussion took place regarding the above. The school understands that parents wish to take video etc. of main school events, but emphasised that there are parents in the school who have specifically requested that their child is not photographed for very valid reasons.

Mrs. Richards apologised that parents were not notified in good time that photographs could not be taken at the last event, and promised to ensure that advance notice would be given in future.

A slip to be added to all event letters to ask whether parents give permission for photographs/video to be taken.

## **New Suggestions**

- SATs papers made available to parents to be more aware of the sort of questions asked
- More problem solving questions set for maths homework.

Mrs. Richards thanked all those who had attended, and asked that they spread the word to other parents!

The next meeting will be organised for the first half of the Autumn Term.