

## **GREAT WALTHAM CE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

### **PARENTS FORUM MEETING 26<sup>TH</sup> February 2010**

Present:

Mr. Alex Burden	Deputy Headteacher
Mrs. Margaret Richards	School Business Manager
Mrs. Helen Mallender	School Governor
Mrs. Helen Mansfield	Chairperson FOGWS
Mrs. Chendy Greenhill	Secretary FOGWS

Staff and Governors were pleased to welcome initially 2 parents, several then followed at the end of Celebration Assembly.

Subjects discussed:

- Report cards
- Parent drop in sessions
- SDP planning
- Comments Box
- Parents numeracy classes
- School photographs
- School pe kit
- FOGWS

#### **Report cards**

Parents present were all very pleased with the information provided on the new report cards. Mr. Burden explained that this had been a trial, and that in future the cards may well come out at October half term (once children have settled into their new classes) and then again in February, prior to parent consultation evening, following the midterm assessments. The usual report would be sent home at the end of the academic year. All felt they were a good basis for discussion at parent consultations.

#### **Parent drop in sessions**

All present felt that these had been very well received by all parents, and were a useful way of keeping in touch with the class teacher.

#### **School Development Planning**

Mrs. Richards explained that the Senior Management Team was now working towards the new School Development Plan, which would run for three years from September 2010. The School Development Plan details all of the school's objectives based around the Government's Every Child Matters agenda, and feeds into the school budget. This is monitored regularly by the Senior Management Team and governors. Parents were invited to participate in this by posting comments onto sheets which has areas for "things that are working well" "things that are working so, so" and "things that are not working so well" both inside and outside the classroom. Mrs. Richards explained that it would not matter if your thought had already been posted, as it would give the SMT an indication of strength of feeling if it is mentioned several times. The team had already carried out this exercise with staff and Governors, and will also carry out the same exercise with the pupils.

It was suggested that these sheets were available to parents at parent consultation evening – Mrs. Richards agreed to put a note into the school newsletter.

## **Comments Box**

It was requested that the school reinstate the comments book, in the form of a sealed comments box, to be kept in Reception. Mrs. Richards agreed to arrange.

## **Parents' numeracy classes**

Following successful completion of the recent literacy class, some parents would be interested in another numeracy class. Mrs. Richards agreed to follow this up and keep parents informed.

## **School Photographs**

Mrs. Richards showed some examples of alternative photographic poses and backgrounds for school photographs – ie white backgrounds, more informal. Those parents present agreed that they preferred the more traditional background and poses, but would like to have the opportunity to buy a whole school photograph at least once during their child's time at the school. It was suggested that once every 5 years might be suitable. In addition, they would also like to be able to choose the makeup of the pack they purchased rather than buying one with photos sizes they may not want. Mrs. Richards to follow up with the photographer.

Some parents commented that they had not been happy with their child's school photograph – some had their polo shirt top button done up, and in the group photos, some were squinting in the sun. It was suggested that the group photographs could be taken with the school building in the background. Mrs. Richards stressed that if parents were not happy with their photographs, they should let the school know. If there were sufficient complaints, she would ask the photographer to return and re-take the photos. She will suggest alternative positioning to the photographer.

## **School PE Kit**

Mrs. Teal put forward the suggestion of a pack for new children when they start school. This consists of a pair of navy shorts, a PE tee shirt in house colours, and a PE bag in house colours embroidered with the school logo – total cost £8.00. All thought this was a good idea, and some would like to purchase the PE bag separately. Mrs. Richards to investigate this possibility.

## **FOGWS**

Some questions were raised relating to the recent letter sent home to parents with regard to the police investigation. Mrs. Mansfield explained that she was not able to answer any direct questions or comment on the ongoing investigation. There followed some discussion about the reason for the letter and the timing.

Mrs. Mansfield assured all present, the current difficult FOGWS situation would be fully explained to parents once the investigation was complete. Mrs. Richards advised parents present, that this had been a very difficult time for Mrs. Mansfield and Mrs. Greenhill, and that they had worked very hard.

Parents were asked whether they would like FOGWS to continue to arrange activities – such as the Easter egg competition etc. All agreed they would.

The meeting closed at 10.30 a.m.