

Minutes of the Montbelle Parent Forum: February, 2nd 2018

Information sharing:

Children's Governing Body Leaflet: Mrs. Geden shared the CGB 'Anti Bullying' leaflet; it was agreed that, for our younger children, it was still too text heavy. Mrs. Geden explained that the CGB wanted to make the information into a more comic-style information leaflet and children would be working on illustrations to move this forward. Mrs. Geden asked parents if they knew anybody who might be able to support the CGB in producing the leaflet.

Clubs: Mrs. Geden shared the CGB work on clubs, which they are supporting Mrs. Helps with. The parents felt that the children's responses were useful and mirrored their own ideas. They asked that Mrs. Helps look at FS/KS1 specific clubs as some of the children are put off joining clubs due to the older children. Parents also felt that ideas about non-sporting clubs, such as Lego, Cooking and Drama should be taken forward.

Playground information: The Enterprise and RRSA work on playground monitoring was shared with the Forum. Parents felt that the ideas would improve children's experience of lunchtime and playtimes and were keen to see improvements happen quickly. Members of the Forum took information about the *draft* plan to look at further so they could verbally reassure parents that improvements were being planned.

Requests for information from emails:

School improvement from 2017 outcomes: It was agreed that Mrs. Geden would meet with the Parent Forum during the second part of the Spring Term to review the School Improvement Plan and explain how the school was tackling lower outcomes at KS2.

Homework: Mrs. Geden explained that the grid for homework would remain. Whilst there had been a request for a return to a comprehension exercise as part of the homework given to children, Mrs. Geden explained that comprehension exercises were fully included as part of teaching and the value of giving them as homework only had an impact if they were marked with the children. Allowing time to mark these in class took away learning time for other activities, with little impact.

Protocol for Student Teachers: A request had been made that, where students would be in class, a letter came from school to let parents know. Mrs. Geden explained that students are asked to write a letter to parents when they begin their main 'block' of teaching experience. It was agreed that students, at their class teachers, will be asked to write a letter as soon as they begin any work with the class.

School gates: This had been previously discussed. Due to financial and planning constraints, changes cannot be made to the KS2 gate. The vehicle gate will not be used as there is not a footpath and cars/pedestrians cannot see each other on the turn in, or turn out, until the pavement is reached.

Communication: Teachers will be reminded to ensure they keep school informed of any late return from visits (and parents will be advised in advance where it is known the trip will return to school after 3.30pm); changes to dates will be kept to a minimum (Mrs. Geden reminded parents that it is sometimes necessary to change dates); club cancellations will be notified as soon as possible to the parents affected (this is a rare occurrence and is, when it happens, beyond the school's control).

Year Group Specific Information:

Maths in Year 3: Miss Burne and Miss Palfreyman will respond to a request for further information about Bronze/Silver and Gold for times tables learning.

Maternity Cover in Year 4 and consistency thereafter: Parents will be informed when Maternity Cover is put in place. The school will always do their best to ensure that children have the same teacher for a school year; however, there are circumstances which the school cannot plan for, which can mean children have a change of teacher, (e.g. maternity, teacher securing an appointment/position elsewhere). The school does recognise that this particular class have had a number of changes during their time at Montbelle.

Class timetables: Staff will be asked to email out a copy of their class timetable after the Half Term break; however, we do ask staff to use learning time flexibly to be able to excite and engage children in their learning, so timetables may be subject to changes, particularly during 'Focus' or 'Take One' weeks.

AOB:

Reading material in Year 2: A parent raised concerns about the appropriateness and interest of some of the Non-Fiction titles in Year 2, particularly one about child slavery. A number of parents at the Forum said their children enjoyed these titles. Mrs. Geden explained that she and Mrs. Leathem would be doing some work with children about reading choices next term and the Forum would be kept updated.

Parent Forum: It was agreed that time for discussion at the Forum was rather constrained. In the first part of the Summer Term, the Forum will be trialled as a 1.40pm – 3.20pm event; the first part will be for the parents to meet together, share feedback from their classes/ parental ideas for school improvement and then Mrs. Geden (or another member of SLT) will join the Forum for the second part to have a discussion around the ideas raised. The Forum accepted that 'solutions' may not be immediate but would then be communicated to the Forum at an appropriate time. Lucy Hewitt agreed to chair the first part of the meeting in the Summer Term.

Teacher Feedback

Foundation Stage: Parent Reps were asked to be proactive in ensuring their own children were not playing with the activities set up in the Foundation Stage outdoor area before school. If appropriate, they were asked to remind other parents, particularly those with other children. The school will remind parents on the newsletter.

Walk and Ride: Parent Reps were asked by Miss Burne and Mr Hoyte to be proactive in doing 'walk and ride' to school, reminding parents that, even if they have to drive, parking a few streets away and walking the last bit will secure the badges for their children.

Next meeting: TBC – extra meeting to discuss School Improvement Plan