

Minutes from Meeting of the Montbelle Parent Forum

3rd February, 2017

Agenda:

Protocol for meeting and introduction of Chair of Governors: Mrs. Geden thanked the Parent Reps for attending and reviewed the agreed protocols for the meeting, reminded Parent Reps that it was not always possible to give an answer immediately to an issue raised, or request made, as it may need further discussion with the Senior Leadership Team or the wider staff. Mrs. Geden introduced Irene Morley, the Chair of Governors, who had come along to attend the meeting and welcomed Alexia Henderson to the Forum (Routemaster Class). Mrs Geden asked Parent Reps if they were aware of any parents in Mrs. Wardrope's class who might agree to fulfil the role (Nursery pm and Mrs. Robertson's class are also with Parent Reps at present).

Minutes from previous meeting: Agreed

Matters arising from previous meeting:

- Mrs. Geden provided an update in respect of the Road Safety Banner competition, which will be sent out to be completed over half term. The Rights Respecting Committee are still intending to write to the local council to request further support with the traffic outside school.
- There has been a period of change in the office; once roles and responsibilities have been secured for all staff, the changes to the email to accompany the newsletter will be trialled. Mrs. Geden was informed that some Reception parents are still not receiving emails; this will be picked up with the school's ICT technician.
- Parent workshops have been adapted in response to parent requests; the initial feedback for these sessions was positive and the uptake has increased. Parents feel this increase is due to the 'invitation' of a specific year group and a focused workshop in respect of a specific year. This feedback will be given to the Senior Leadership Team to support planning of the Summer Term workshops.

Feedback: Class Teacher and Parent Rep liaison meetings: Most Parent Representatives have met with, or been offered a meeting with, their Class Teacher. Mrs. Geden will speak with staff where these meetings have not yet happened to ensure these take place as soon as possible.

Feedback: KS2 Fruit: Feedback was varied:

- The suggestion that ETAM fundraising be used has been discussed by ETAM. They do not feel that fundraising for fruit fully meets the purpose of ETAM, to support the education of children in the school through providing physical resources and other learning experiences. They also feel, in the long term, that the funding is not sustainable.
- Parent Representatives felt that the parents of Key Stage Two (Year 3 – Year 6) children did not necessarily know that the school currently paid for fruit. Mrs. Geden noted that this information had been shared when the scheme began but was not something that the school regularly advertised.
- It was suggested that the school seek commercial sponsorship for the provision of fruit, e.g. Greenwich Better, a supermarket or community project (e.g. Asda). This will be discussed further with key staff in school.
- On the whole, there was a concern that many parents would not pay a voluntary contribution (a number of parents felt they would rather send in their own fruit than pay a fruit donation) and this would mean the school was still heavily subsidising the fruit. Whilst parents understood that disadvantaged and vulnerable children would still receive fruit from school funding, this raised questions about how this would be managed for these children. These points will be taken forward to the Senior Leadership Team for further discussion.

Matters to be discussed:

- **Request for introduction of a learning passport to record children's progress in times tables, reading, etc.** Mrs. Geden explained that, given the introduction of the Interim Report, and changes to assessment processes in the last couple of years, the introduction of this type of record would be unlikely to be felt manageable by staff in respect of current workload but would be raised with the Senior Leadership Team.

Mrs. Geden outlined a new initiative to engage children further in reading for pleasure and how this, in itself, will provide parents with a record of children's reading.

- **Replacement of reading books and challenging books for the more able reader in the library:** Mrs. Geden explained that Elizabeth Jefferson is updating the library constantly. We are aware that, at times, when children come to the end of a 'series' of books they have enjoyed, they can find it difficult to engage themselves in another genre and this can result in the feeling that there is 'nothing to read'. Mrs. Geden will speak with Mrs. Jefferson about the range of books available. Parent Reps also asked Mrs. Geden to check the range of children's classics as they are aware that there is a move towards these being used standard texts. Mrs. Geden explained that it had been agreed that some ETAM funding will be used for books but Mrs. Geden will meet with Mrs. Roberts and Mrs. Leathem (English Subject Leaders) to discussing their budget bid for the 2017 -2018 financial year in respect of replacing the worn and damaged Oxford Reading Tree texts.
- **Protocol for election of ETAM officers** A question had been received from a parent about the protocol for the re-election of ETAM officers as the chair had changed without an AGM or extraordinary meeting taking place. Sharon Woodrow, as a Parent Rep and current chair of ETAM explained that she was vice-chair of ETAM so had stepped up when the chair resigned, with the support from the remainder of the Committee. It was suggested that the Terms of Reference for ETAM were distributed to again all parents prior to the AGM (whilst these should have already been sent out, it appears that some parents have not received them). Sharon Woodrow asked Parent Reps to ensure parents knew about the AGM as a number of the current committee will be stepping down at the AGM.
- **Reasons for changes to homework** Mrs. Geden noted the changes to homework were as a result of listening to pupil and parent voice and sharing good practice with other schools. Parent Reps were positive about the changes, feeling it gave children a good choice, but felt that more information from the school should have been provided for the introduction of this change, which Mrs. Geden accepted, from Parent Reps' experiences, might not have been consistently well introduced across all year groups. Parent Reps asked what the school's position was on children not completing homework – Mrs. Geden referenced the Home School Agreement and the expectation that parents support their children. However, children are not punished if they do not complete it. One parent noted that in Year 4, children were rewarded if they brought it in early, which parents felt was not fair on parents and children who had commitments during the weekend and yet still had their homework in 'on time'; Mrs. Geden agreed to raise this with teachers. The discussion about homework also referenced Learning Behaviours; parents with children in the younger year groups, who missed the whole school introduction, did not feel they necessarily understood what was meant by Learning Behaviours. Mrs. Geden will pass this on to the relevant staff to consider how this information can best be shared.
- **Widening of clubs** The school offers a wide range of clubs already and there are a couple of further clubs which may be offered in the Summer Term, e.g. a running club. Mrs. Geden agreed to take this to staff for further consideration, e.g. the possibility of running a cooking club or a language club. Parent Reps also suggested that the staff who run external clubs offered a workshop/'expo' session so parents could come and find out exactly what their children will be learning.
- **Access to Mathletics from home** Parents reported there were still ongoing issues relating to Mathletics, particularly when they were trying to access it from a tablet/ipad. Parents of Reception children asked if they had access to the Mathletics club as, if there is no laptop available at home, children struggle to use the package. Mrs. Geden will raise these points with Mr Kinsella (who is the school's Maths Leader) and report back to the Parent Forum.
- **ETAM disco** Parents had asked if ETAM could run a disco. Mrs. Geden explained that this has been previously suggested in place of the Christmas Fayre. However, it was difficult, with a limited number of parents working with ETAM, to adequately supervise the sessions and it would not have provided the same income as the Fayre. It was agreed this might be discussed again in the future, after the AGM and election of next officers.

ETAM (Sharon Woodrow)

Sharon Woodrow reminded Parent Reps about the upcoming AGM and asked them to ensure that parents were aware of the date and time so there would be a good turnout.

