

Minutes of Montbelle Parent Forum

3rd of November, 2017 at 2.15pm

Present: Emily Jones, Jen Insall, Alexia Henderson, Laura Sheehan, Karen Smith, Sharon Harding, Katie Arkley, Donna Clark, Lucy Hewitt, Rebecca Ramsay, Jane Fitch, Sarah Fisher.

Apologies: Sharon Woodrow, Jo Powis.

Welcome and introductions: New Parent Reps were welcomed to the Forum and introductions were made. The roles and responsibilities of the Parent Reps were reviewed.

Agreed Focus:

Montbelle Behaviour Policy: The policy had been circulated to Parent Reps prior to the meeting. Requests were made that the policy be further reviewed to ensure that it was written in language that parents could easily access, including the removal of abbreviations which may not be used in school but would not be clear to parents. A parent asked if policy could include meetings between parents where an adult might wish to apologise to another for their child's behaviour. It was agreed it would be difficult to have such an arrangement as part of usual practice. Mrs. Geden will raise the suggestion with the Senior Leadership Team and wider staff before the next Forum.

A question was asked about how specific behaviours were recognised with other children, for example, when a child exhibits aggressive behaviours, with a concern that such behaviour may become 'normalised' for other children. It was explained how staff talk to children about behaviour, including the use of circle time and whole class work. A further question was asked about how information was passed between class teachers at the end of each school year, linked to a concern about information not being passed on. Current transition arrangements were explained and Mrs. Geden asked that parents be reassured that she will diarise the concern and remind staff in the Summer term that they ensure all information about children's behaviour is passed on.

Home School Agreement: There was a concern raised regarding the language and content of the revised agreement, given that children are also asked to sign it. It was suggested that the agreement in respect of physical chastisement should not be included in the document that children will read. A member of the Forum agreed to give the wording some consideration and suggest some amendments, which Mrs. Geden will then discuss with the Senior Leadership Team. There is also a statement in the existing HSA which requires amendment.

Bullying: Several members of the Forum agreed that they had replied 'Don't know' to the question about bullying; their reason for doing so arose from not having experienced bullying at the school and, therefore, not having knowledge about processes. It was suggested that, in line with National Bullying Week (13th – 17th Nov), the school would publish a document, to be distributed at the same time as the weekly newsletter, detailing how the school deals with incidents of bullying if they arise.

Ofsted: Parents asked what would be done to address the target for Maths given in the September 2017 Ofsted report. Mrs. Geden explained all teachers do challenge children to achieve mastery and that children's books do look different through the year (the Ofsted visit came early in the Year). Mr Kinsella will continue to lead Maths and additional interventions would be used to challenge children; staff training would continue to be used to raise expectations further for our more able children.

Matters raised:

First Aid: Reception parents had raised concerns that first aid incidents are not being addressed. Mrs. Geden will raise with the Midday Meal supervisors.

Uniform: Parents had raised concerns that school uniform policy is not enforced and there was a lack of clarity about uniform expectations. Mrs. Geden explained that teachers do pick up on uniform where the correct uniform isn't worn. School uniform expectations will be raised again with parents, ensuring that they are clear.

Packed Lunch: The school has recognised parent concerns that the updated GS Plus menu contains a number of cake options for dessert; Mrs. Waite has already reviewed the updated menu with our new school cook and has removed a number of cake options. The suggestion that GS Plus share their recipes so parents can make the healthy cake

option had previously been raised; the cake options are healthy in that they use specific ingredients but also because the menus are balanced across a two week period.

Communication: Parents asked that communication could be reviewed for factual, grammatical and spelling issues before being sent out to parents. Mrs. Geden will address.

School Gate: Whilst there are continuing concerns about the safety of the school gate, Mrs. Geden reminded parents that there is nothing the school can do to widen the access gates. Mrs. Geden did accept that there had been two occasions recently where the gate had opened slightly late due to staffing issues; staff will be reminded on this week's briefing to ensure that gates are opened promptly and they arrange cover if it is needed. Parents will be reminded of the need to keep the gate area clear and be considerate of other users.

School Photo: The format will remain the same for this year.

Alpha Club: Concerns were raised about security for Alpha Club with the gate being left open. Mr Williams is aware that the automatic closure on the gate requires attention and notices have been put on the gate to remind parents to close the gate behind them. This has been raised with Alpha Club.

Behaviours/ incidents in the playground: Children are taught through the curriculum, assemblies and circle times, alongside other opportunities for discussion, how to follow the school expectations and make the right choice. Incidents are addressed when children do not make the right choices in line with the school behaviour policy. A parental request for cladding around metal posts will be discussed with Mr Williams.

Date for next meeting: January, 12th 2018 at 2.15pm (Focus to be confirmed)