

ASTON CLINTON SCHOOL
Parent Forum Meeting

Date: 31 January 2020 – 2.00 pm

Attendees

Carol Macdonald, Acting Headteacher
Carole Green – Chair of Governors
Matt Bullard – RCS
Stephanie Young - RSR
Sarah Pinkstone – 1PH
Jude Bissert – 1BB
Lindsey Keanne – 2HH
Emma Bryne – 3VF
Clare Edmonds– 4VF
Tiffany Taylor-Murphy – 5CB

Apologies:

Corinne Bonnett - 2JS
Dawn Roberts – 3GH
Arpana Valji – 5GW
Marie Lloyd – 6MW
Anna O’Leary – 6HP
Vacancy - 4SB

Welcome

Mrs Green welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made for the new class reps

The Minutes from the last meeting on 22 November 2019 were agreed and had been published on the School website.

It was agreed that safeguarding and homework items would be taken first to ensure they were covered.

Safeguarding

Mrs Macdonald explained the background to the recent change of locking the school gates until the official start of the school day. This linked to the discussion at the previous meeting and the advice received at that point. However the anonymous letter had been sent to Ofsted and that meant the Local Authority (LA) had to investigate the matter and they had insisted on immediate action with the gates to be locked at the start of day until staff were on the playground. The end of day procedures in place were acceptable to the LA.

Senior management tried to be on the playground for 8.30 am but any earlier was not feasible. Reps highlighted the congestion at the junior gate with only 10 minutes to get all children in. Mrs Macdonald suggested that if a parent had 2 children they went to the Infant playground and the junior pupil walked to the junior playground using the path on site in front of the school.

A number of parents had contacted the LA, as they wanted their children to be independent and walk to school on their own. The LA had suggested a letter from parents for this arrangement but the reps felt that was not needed and would

<p>complicate matters. The current arrangements are that Year 3 children are handed to parents/carers and Years 4,5 and 6 are lead out by the teacher and then go to meet whoever is picking them up or walk home on their own.</p> <p>It was suggested that the Home/School agreement/letter set out responsibilities so everyone was aware. The recommendation was that children did not walk to school on their own until the middle of Year 4/ 8 years old</p> <p><i>What about vulnerable children?</i> They stay with the teacher and there is a password before the child is handed over.</p> <p>The parents were very supportive of the school and everyone agreed that the existing procedures should continue. Reps reported little or no feedback from the Infants classes. Reps were keen that children still had opportunity to do exercise and Mrs Macdonald said the morning mile was to start again.</p> <p><i>Could there be a little leeway on closing the gate? Literally had it shut in my face when would have been better for everyone to let the children in.</i> Mrs Macdonald said she always checked before shutting gate and would pass that on to other staff.</p> <p><i>Who is responsible for the children’s behaviour in Infants playground? Do parents have to be on the playground as very congested and difficult to watch your child?</i> Putting cones for parents to stand behind had been tried but parents had taken no notice. The school is responsible once children are on site. It was agreed that the guidelines should be reset and parents stand behind a line in the playground.</p> <p>Agenda item for next meeting.</p>	<p>Mrs Macdonald</p> <p>Agenda</p>
<p>Homework</p> <p>Mrs Macdonald explained the background to the homework grid for infants and juniors. Items were tied loosely to themes and the aim was to build on the skills the children needed. Mrs Macdonald went through the grid and reps agreed with the amount of homework (time) shown in the grid for each year group.</p> <p><i>Did teachers look at the reading record? I don’t get a response to my message.</i> Yes they should. There had been a full review of books.</p>	
<p>Ofsted – update of actions being taken.</p> <p>Reps felt that the school should do more PR as they recognised how hard everyone in school was working. Work was being done to share with parents – plan on a page. It was suggested that small items could be added in the Friday Flyer. A full external review had been organised to get an evaluation of the progress made and the work still to be done.</p>	
<p>Friday Flyer</p> <p>Mrs Macdonald asked if this was still working as a communication tool and if the frequency should change. Reps wanted it to remain a weekly newsletter even though</p>	

<p>they may scan information for year groups not applicable to them.</p>	
<p>School Uniform provider</p> <p>Mrs Macdonald shared details of a new provider who would take online orders. There were 2 examples of the cardigan and reps liked the bluer, cheaper one. <i>Was a bulk order needed?</i> No parents can order what they need and it will be delivered as per timescales on the website.</p>	
<p>Donations from parents</p> <p>Mrs Macdonald asked if parents would prefer to give a monetary donation at the start of the year and not be asked for a donation for every individual charity event etc. Reps liked to give for specific events and felt that gave the children a better appreciation of the reason for the different fundraising.</p>	
<p>Mrs Green thanked everybody for their time and input at the meeting.</p> <p>Next meeting: 20 March 2020, 2.00 pm</p>	