



# REDBOURN PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Summer Term 22/23

### Parent Focus Group Meeting 16<sup>th</sup> June 2023 MINUTES

#### **In Attendance:**

Head Teacher: Miss Emma Fenn

School Business Manager: Mrs Amanda Bowran

Acting Chair: Aileen Skolar (Pine rep)

#### **Class Reps:**

Kelly Searle (Acorn), Maria McGrath (Willow), Lily Coster (Lime), Jessica Withers (Oak), Emma Carion (Maple), x), Pam Tolchard (Fir), Aileen Skolar (Pine), Jonathon Stockdale (Elm) Jo Savage (Acer), Joanna Morris (Cedar), Lily Sieve (Hazel), Alex Colville (Hawthorn & representing Beech today)

#### **Apologises:**

Assistant Head Teacher: Louise McLellan

Chair: Lucy Miller (Sycamore rep)

Fiona Burton (Beech rep)

Sarah Wilkinson (Chestnut rep)

Sophie Stockdale (Elm rep)

#### **1. Twitter posting more consistent in the classes where there was parent dissatisfaction?**

- Still inconsistency between classes.
- A lot of feedback on lack of Twitter posting from both Willow and Maple classes
- Request from Maple class to review their twitter postings in particular
- Acorn class very happy with the level of their Twitter posts
- A lot of classes want more posts.
- Some classes good at posting on a weekly basis, other classes better at posting for outings and special occasions
- Miss Fenn explained 2 areas causing inconsistency:
  - a. Lack of devices / quality of devices / connectivity teachers have available to use to post
  - b. Number of children per class who are not authorised to be in pictures & teachers not wanted to draw attention to this / single children out
- Miss Fenn confirmed that tablets and outside wireless points have been purchased. This should improve both Twitter posting consistency and these tablets will also provide real time medical tracker notifications for better health & safety reporting and analysis.
- Target for better, consistent Twitter posting is Sept 2023.
- Twitter posting will continue to be monitored by senior leadership and feedback requested again at the next PFG meeting to assess improvements.
- Suggestion to nominate Twitter leads amongst children in older classes who are responsible for content to be posted for their class.

## **2. Successes this year?**

- Reception trip to Shepreth Park
- Viking Day in Year 4
- Trips for Hazel class to the National Space centre and Tudor Day
- Year 1 Trip to Kew was amazing
- Miss Fenn confirmed that the school is now drawing up an annual trip plan for all years. The intention is to spread out more trips across the school year / not have them all in the Summer term to address lack of availability of coaches in the Summer.
- Miss Fenn also confirmed that school trips are run at no profit and the school operates a voluntary contribution scheme. For those families struggling to afford the trips the school subsidizes any shortfall at their own cost to enable no child to miss out.
- Increase in Music / sharing assemblies across the school
- Class mixing (even for one sceptical parent of a Year 5 child last year who was originally opposed to the mixing in year 6, there was feedback that it has been most beneficial).
- Book Looks
- Star of the week and achievement postcards
- Reading to Pixie the dog
- Opportunity to do French
- More opportunities for extra curricular activities – choir, sports, chess
- Extra reading books are a welcome change / increase reading books being brought home has positive outcomes
- New Monster Phonics scheme is much better
- Good clear plan to Ofsted report
- Miss Fenn noted that the school has just bought a new Literacy Scheme Literacy Tree which staff have received training for on the last inset day. More details to follow on how this will be implemented and its benefits

## **3. Areas for consideration for the Autumn Term**

- There are repeated feedback requests for in person parents evenings each PFG
- Miss Fenn explained her concerns with timings and the large school site. At this point in time the online system is working well for most people. At a minimum each parent gets two, 10 minute online consultations with their teacher per year. In addition to this parents are welcome to email the school office and arrange additional one to ones as often as they choose with their child's teacher if they would like face to face updates and interactions. Miss Fenn will ensure that this message is communicated to all.
- It was suggested that the school could look at the timing of the current parent consultations which are in Oct and February. Could the February one be moved later to create a bigger gap? It was explained that the October consultation is to review social and emotional aspects. The February consultation is based on December assessment data. The written annual report to parents is based on summer term data.
- Several classes raised queries as to why children are not allowed access to drinking water in class when they request it.
- It was noted that water fountains have been placed around the school and children are given lots of opportunities to stay hydrated. Each class teacher is currently free to set their own class policy with regards to when a child can take water.
- The school policy is not to allow water bottles when laptops/tablets are being used and that children should be able to refrain from asking for water during direct teaching (10 mins) in a lesson as a minimum.
- Use of water bottles in class will be reviewed at the next teacher meeting

- A query was raised with regards to how star of the month is calculated and does everyone get one at least one annually. Miss Fenn confirmed that each child will get this at least once a year
- Year 1 noted that use of specific seat belts on the coach on their school trip was not properly addressed in their safety briefing and some belts were not correctly tightened. Miss Fenn agreed to review and update the safety briefing guidelines for teachers to review the type of seatbelt on a coach and ensure that parent helpers as well as teachers are aware of instructions on how to secure them correctly.
- Lime class raised various queries on reading books, records and what is the criteria for progressing to the next stage
- Miss Fenn agreed to resend the letter previously sent out to parents clarifying the reading progression process
- Some Hazel class feedback referenced the multiple teacher changes the class has experienced over many years at the school and the negative impact. As a result they sought reassurance that teacher continuity will be guaranteed for Year 6.
- Miss Fenn responded to the above that she cannot guarantee teacher absences due to personal circumstances mid year but that she was confident that the school has a robust teaching plan for the coming school year
- Several classes raised queries with regards to home learning and lack of marking of it
- Miss Fenn clarified that teacher focus as per Ofsted recommendation is focussed on improvements to the curriculum and clubs to support this. However she will take the queries with regards to home learning away & feedback at the next meeting as to how this will be addressed going forward.
- Some individuals are still very anxious with class mixing next year. Miss Fenn said she would endeavour to publish new teachers and classes as early as she could to give the maximum time possible for children to adjust prior to the Summer holidays.
- Queries with regards to the state of the daily mile track and inconsistencies with how often it takes places on a weekly basis were clarified by Miss Fenn. Teachers have discretion as to when they complete the daily mile. The target is three times a week per class but this can vary. It was acknowledged that the track itself could benefit from some resurfacing but the quote for this was prohibitively expensive at this point in time. In the meantime it has been weeded.

Date of next meeting: ? Sept 2023