

## Parent Forum – Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2016 at 9am

Mr Bless opened the 1<sup>st</sup> Parent Forum by introducing himself.

He informed the parents (10 in total) that the forum was a place where they could ask question and raise any concerns but without stating names of individual children or members of staff.

Members of staff who were also at the forum introduce themselves and gave a brief description of their role – (Miss Paddon, Miss Clarke, Mr Way, Mrs Stacey, and Mr Taylor).

Next Mr Bless went on to talk about the how the school had improved, the quality of the teaching staff and after Ofsted – where to we go next. He explained that Parents of POW play a vital role/part in this and asked for suggestions.

**The first question was about Reading Eggs** and why had they been stopped, one parent said that her child (in Year 1) used it and other parents of Year 1 children did, she suggested that we leave it on for the younger children.

Mr Bless explained how and why the school had come to the decision to suspended it for the moment

- Not a great take up
- Subscription expensive

Suggested that:

- We would look into it and if evidence can be found that parents are using it.
- Will ask parents for feedback – a questionnaire to be sent out to ALL parents

It was explained that Reading eggs are for children up to year 2 and Reading express for older children.

**Next** parent firstly thanked the teaching staff and said how proud of the school she and every one are but she had a few concerns.

**Firstly Uniform** – She was not happy with how some children are dressed to come to school and suggested that school should send children home who did not come in the correct uniform.

**Secondly – Fund raising** to help the school, which would help the children – maybe money raised could go towards books, or an extra teacher that would work with the children.

**Thirdly – Homework** – Once a week is not enough, suggested may two or three times and should always include maths and English.

Mr Taylor explained that we encourage children to read every night and encourage parents to make sure they listen to their children reading aloud every night, although he realised that not all parents were able to do this but said that they should read to someone (even if younger or older sibling who

could also read). He explained the value to the child and the school of children reading to someone rather than on their own.

The importance of the reading journal each child has for parents to make comments, more and more parents were now using the journal as a way of home and school communication, so rather than just putting e.g. read well and signed gave a longer and more thought out explanation on their child's reading and put any concerns about it.

In regards to actually giving our children more homework he said that children who have left our school and are now in Year 7 come back and say they wish we had given more homework so they would have been ready for the amount they now get.

He said that school (SLT) will discuss the amount of homework given and get back to parents.

Mr Bless – Children should always have at least one set of maths and English homework each week, he suggested that parents could go to shops and get additional books to help their child at home, but they need to be mindful of the balance between homework, and other out of schools activities.

Mr Taylor said that children always had homework as they are always encouraged to read, do spellings and learn their times tables at home. – Parents were told to support their children at home with these things.

Mr Bless then spoke about Uniform and how we do our best to encourage ALL parents to buy the correct uniform for their children, but we are aware that some parents may have financial difficulties and may find non-logo brands cheaper, as long as we are informed by parents of their situation we are happy to work with families and on the whole are uniform if good.

Suggested – staff will discuss and send questionnaire out to parents. We did use to survey parents.

Mr Taylor – we do challenge students with incorrect uniform and inappropriate haircuts and styles, the wearing of uniform is the best it has ever been.

Miss Clarke made a suggestion that we could start selling any lost property uniform which has not been labelled maybe once a term, (we would wash them first) this has been done before. She would speak to Mrs Rees. Mrs Stacey also suggested that this could be link to the earlier suggestion of raising funds for the school.

Mr Bless then asked for views on Hair and the patterns some children have, he felt it was a distraction and may cause other children to feel pressured into doing the same thing.

Parents felt that children do feel pressured not to wear the proper school uniform one gave an example of their own child, they also felt that the hair patterns and some styles were inappropriate for school and that teachers were not saying anything to those children in their class who did not have the appropriate school uniforms. School should be a safe haven for children and not a place they come and feel pressured and therefore putting pressure on parents who are doing the right thing. Suggestion – communicate with parents about uniform, haircuts and styles, maybe by letter, text and/or newsletter. At a previous school letters were sent out about what is expected and allowed at the school and the parent said he could show it to his child/ren if they did not want to listen to him.

**What help do we give to children that are more able** – more able children sometimes find school boring, feel like these children as being ‘dragged back’.

Mr Bless – children are doing well, we are following the government curriculum which means children can move from one level to another. Children are encouraged to politely ask their teacher if they feel they are not being pushed.

Teachers are available once a week if parents would like to come into school and speak to them with any concerns including the work given to their children in class – parents are encouraged to come in and look at their child’s work books. They can speak to the teacher if they feel that their child is not being pushed to their child’s ability.

Miss Paddon explained that we have lots of things in place for our more able students to show their talents through such things as chess club, debating and other activities.

**Security and Safety** – parents’ concerns about parents riding bikes on school grounds, even though they acknowledged school has sent out text and messages via to newsletter to parents about riding bikes on school grounds.

**No lolly pop lady**, it is now unsafe for children and parents to cross the road. How can school help parents to raise concerns with the council.

Mr Bless will inform parents again about bikes by using the concerns brought up in the forum today.

Miss Clarke made a suggestion that maybe the school council or prefects could get involved – maybe draw leaflets to hand out to parents about safety in school,

Mr Bless said Yes good idea to use the children but we must think about the wellbeing of the children and the impact on their learning time if they are out of class handing out leaflets.

Mr Taylor – school can and has banned parents who have been asked not to ride their bike on the grounds but have continued to do so, but we need to be sensitive as we do not want negatives relationships between school and parents.

With regard to the crossing of the road it may be to do with finance – school will talk to the council.

**What measures is school taking to get back to ‘Outstanding’**

Mr Way explained that it is part of the Governors role to make sure the school is on track to get to outstanding. Governors meet at the curriculum and standards to make sure we challenge and get the evidence across the board that the challenges are being met.

Mr Bless mentions that attendance made a difference with our current Ofsted result of good, and that parents need to be fully engaged, we need to work with parents and children and that parents need to be supportive.

### **Timing Concerns of Forum**

After a discussion between parents and members of staff and a vote about the time of the next forum, (31<sup>st</sup> January 2017), it was decided so that everyone who wants to attend has an opportunity too we would hold two meetings on the 31<sup>st</sup> , one at 9am and the other at 6pm. Feedback from the 9am meeting would be given to those who attend the 6pm meeting.

Mr Way ended the meeting by bringing up the fact that we have vacancies for parent governors and if any parent was interested to contact the school.

Mr Bless thanked them for attending and asked them to spread the word to other parents about the forum.