

Parents Forum Meeting

Tuesday 15th March 2016, 2.15pm

Present: Mr Crumpler, Trudy Hinton, Ali Purse, Jules Bond, Angela Burgess-Hughes, Helen Covell, Karen Penny, Rebecca Thomlinson, Amy Woodhouse

Apologies: Sarah Nixon, Tracey Phenix

Issues arising from previous meeting

- Wake and Shake – Mr Crumpler said that this is being considered, however there is an issue in that in the past children who didn't want to do it were arriving at school late, to avoid having to take part.

Anti-Bullying Policy

Mr Crumpler asked if parents had any feedback on the policy. A parent asked if children feel they are able to speak up if they are being bullied; Mr Crumpler said not always, and that sometimes other children alert school staff. Little things can point to a pattern of unkind behaviour (a child being left out, etc.). It was asked at what point the school involves parents if there is an issue of bullying, both for the bully and the victim. Mr Crumpler said that if the behaviour happens more than once, the school will let parents know. He said that the threat of telling parents can be successfully used as a means to deter the child/ren from further unkind behaviour. ("I'm not going to tell your parents *this* time, but if it happens again..."). In Mr Crumpler's experience, girls are generally more subtle with unkind behaviour, whereas boys are usually more straightforward. A parent asked if there is a local parenting course on anti-bullying for parents to attend. Mr Crumpler will look into this. He stated that if children are worried or concerned, there is a 'Bother Box' in the library where they can post a note with these worries written down. Mrs Hall and Mrs Yeates are our ELSA TAs who deal with these worries. All present agreed that the majority of children at Wyke are genuinely very kind and look after their peers and those younger than themselves.

Mr Crumpler reassured parents that a great deal of PSHCE work on anti-bullying is continually taught throughout the school (eg: not being included etc.).

Rewards systems were discussed in detail. Some children feel that other children are rewarded for doing what everyone else does all the time and feel this is unfair. Mr Crumpler stated that 'whole-class' rewards work well in this instance (eg: a gem jar). A parent said that another local school uses a 'band system' where all children start on 'gold' at beginning of the week. This encourages good behaviour as children want to keep their 'gold' band.

A parent asked if there is an older child buddy system at Wyke; Mr Crumpler said not at present, but he would take this to the School Council to discuss. The issue of cyber bullying was touched upon. Although this is something faced more by older children, there have been some instances of this in Years 5 and 6 in the past.

Other Matters

- A parent noted it would be helpful to have as much notice as possible about school events.
- Will cycling proficiency take place? Mr Crumpler will ask Mrs Motley to find out more information.
- A concern was raised that children from Y4 upwards are not being matched with parents at the end of the day. Another parent mentioned that KS2 children have always been let out and not necessarily matched with parents, in order to foster independence. Various possibilities were discussed. A parent present stated that it is parents' responsibility to be there on time to meet their children and that they should ring the school if this is not the case. Mr Crumpler will bring this up at a staff meeting.
- It was mentioned that the state of reading books is poor in the lower school. Mr Crumpler stated that the Friends Assoc. may be able to provide funds to replace some books. In the past we have asked for book donations and received some very good books. The Friends Assoc. looks carefully through donations for the Bazaar and Fete and gives any good quality books to the school library. Mr Crumpler stated that books are replaced regularly but unfortunately they are not hardwearing and don't last long.

Next meeting Tuesday May 17th, 2.15pm

Governor link - Helen Covell	londonbreaks@tiscali.co.uk
Y1 - Karen Penny	karenhayward2002@yahoo.co.uk
Y2 - Rebecca Thomlinson	rebeccathomlinson@hotmail.com
Y3 - Tracey Phenix	singapore70@ymail.com
Y4 - Amy Woodhouse	amy_maud@yahoo.ie
Y5 - Trudy Hinton	t.hinton@gillinghamwyke.dorset.sch.uk
Y5 - Ali Purse	a.purse@gillinghamwyke.dorset.sch.uk
Y5 - Sarah Nixon	N/A
Y5 - Angela Burgess-Hughes	angela.bh@hotmail.co.uk