

## PARENTS FORUM

**Date:** 07<sup>th</sup> February 2019

**School Staff in Attendance:** Maureen Andrews, Zabeda Hussein and Rhea Kurcewicz

*Number of Parents:* 16

Introductions: MA introduced Catherine Blessan is our new parent governor

Welcome and Outline of Purpose of the Forum: *Parent Forums are a chance for School Leaders to meet with Parents to share updates, discuss any queries, questions or concerns and to look at any next steps.*

Updates:

- We have recently purchased 'Bug Club' (as suggested by parents), an online reading resources for pupils and parents to access at home. This includes book-specific questions to support parents.
- Mornings – some parents had expressed concern that they don't have long enough in class (Foundation Stage) in the morning so we are going to extend the morning session to 25 minutes for one morning a week.
- Curriculum- we have been developing a knowledge based curriculum, with a focus on children applying their learning. We are using knowledge organisers to support this learning, and send these home and the start of each topic.
- School Photographs. Some parents have asked why we didn't have photographs taken last year. This is partly due to the fact that not many parents buy the photographs so it is hard to book photographers. However, we have asked around and managed to secure a photographer for March.
- We have had some VIP visitors! Gill Furniss MP and then the Attorney general to the Archbishops have both visited in the last couple of weeks. Both were very positive about the school.
- Year 4 were invited to an exclusive book launch for 'Meet Me By the Steelman', a book that they have been reading and writing about in class. They got to meet the author. Every child received a personally signed book from the author, and she told us that she was inspired by the work that the children had been doing in school.
- Sport Hijabs: a parents group is being set up to create sports hijabs that parents can buy.
- Parents Group: We are wanting to set up a parents group in order to help the community (possibly linked to food donations). There is an idea that we can use the old caretakers house in order to create a community hub. We are looking for as many parents to get on board as possible. We will send out more information shortly.
- Litter pick- we are going to do some morning litter picks that parents will be invited to.

Questions from Parents:

- Q: Can we have some more guidance about how to use knowledge organisers at home with the children?  
A: Yes. We will be creating some guidance to send home shortly. We will also run a parents' workshop about knowledge organisers.
- Q: Can we see the video that Y2 recording today of an art lesson?  
A: This was an IRIS filming of an outstanding Art teacher which are going to use to share with other teachers to help develop their art teaching. Children will be on the video so we will be unable to share with parents as not all parents have given their permission for this.
- Q: Can we have an art parents workshop?  
A: We will arrange this. We can ask 'Art John' to come and run an art workshop.
- Q: Will we see the children's assessment levels at Parents evening?

A: Yes. Pupils' February attainment data will be shared with parents

- Q: Are we due OFSTED?

A: Our two year window is open now, so we are expected them, although there is a possibility that they may not come as we are due to become an academy.

- Q: What are we planning to do around Sex and Relationship education?

A: This guidance is not statutory. We are not looking at it yet as it is not our priority and is not statutory. We currently teach one unit in Y6 after SATs. Parents are invited to come to an information session beforehand and see the content that the children will be taught. When we do decide to implement the new guidance, we will work in partnership with parents to create a policy that works for our school and community.

- Q: What is the role of the parent governor?

A: Every governing body is required to have a governor who is a parent. The role is the same as any other governor: to make *strategic* decisions about the school. The parent governor is autonomous, she is not expected to make decisions based on what other parents want, but to think about what is best for the school as a whole.

#### Actions/Next Steps

- Guidance to be sent home to support parents around how to use knowledge organisers at home.
- Ask Y5 children to vote on the colour of their jumpers for Y6 next year.
- Trip letters to show breakdown of costs