



## PARENT FORUM MEETING MINUTES WEDNESDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2019

**Present:** Julie Puxley  
Peta Torrance  
Deb Pawson  
Madi Wilkie  
Catherine Kelly

Emma Baker  
Vanessa Hansen  
Jenny Dear  
Trevor Cleeve  
Claire Haddock

1.	<p><b><u>Apologies</u></b> Apologies were received from Sharon Bear, Debbie Gibson, Kate Horrey and Mandy Weetch.</p>
2.	<p><b><u>Class Changes</u></b> Julie explained that all classes will be mixed up for next academic year and asked if there was any feedback on this and also on the form that had been sent out in KSI asking for 5 friends that parents thought their child would work well with. Julie said they had not had very many forms back. Generally parents felt that the teachers would know best and were happy for the school to make this decision. It was suggested that new starters in reception might like to have a friend with them when joining from nursery as new parents sometimes feel worried about their child not knowing anyone. It was felt that this was perhaps more important than for those already settled in the school environment. Julie said this was definitely something to think about but that early years classrooms are open plan and they are not really separated from any children in reception. Julie felt it was important to emphasise this to parents of reception children to help deviate parent concerns. It was also discussed that it wasn't necessary to keep classes the same from year 2 to 3 as the dynamics of classes change during the year anyway with children leaving and starting and a fresh mix up for year 3 was actually a positive step. Claire Haddock shared that SWCHS had highlighted that KSS pupils are the best prepared and settle quicker than other primaries as they are already very used to moving classes, using planners and coping with homework. It was suggested that it would be good reassurance for year 6 parents to hear from year 7 parents how smooth the transition was.</p>
3.	<p><b><u>Homework</u></b> Julie explained about the new format of homework that has been trialled in year 3. Children are given homework in 5 categories – English, Maths, DT, Science and Topic. They have a half term to complete homework and can choose to do the minimum, the maximum or something in between, the idea being that it creates a more flexible homework regime. Some homework can</p>

	<p>be done on their own, others with help from parents. House points are then awarded dependant on how much homework has been done. The plan is this will be rolled out across year 3-6 in September, year 5 and 6 will be given more specific deadlines.</p> <p>This feedback was also received from one parent representative: We received feedback in advance from our two Year Three parents representatives which we went through at the meeting. This included 'The changes did not cause too many problems and probably made managing the homework more flexible with regards to time management. The majority of the subjects to choose from were fairly easily managed, obviously with some help and guidance from us as parents. The different topic choices were fun and relevant.'</p> <p>Feedback also contained some constructive criticism and ideas. We discussed feedback on Timing, Commitment, Pressure, Point Allocation and Complexity amongst other things. Feedback was discussed and will be shared with teachers in advance of implementation and ongoing feedback taken once implemented.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some parents felt there was quite a lot of homework</li> <li>• Some homework was on the sheet before children had received any teaching on the subject</li> <li>• 3 week blocks rather than a whole half term was suggested</li> <li>• Complexity of work needs to be looked at</li> <li>• Homework to be aimed at children being able to complete on their own as parental support is different in each family and may not always be possible</li> <li>• Where parents are helping children with homework separately they do not always know which parts have been done and which still need completing</li> </ul> <p>Parent reps and Julie had several ideas regarding these concerns and the following will be looked into/implemented for September.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homework will be stuck into books and each item of homework will be ticked off as it is done</li> <li>• Teachers to ensure children have had the basic teaching on subjects before homework is set or date homework i.e. to be completed after this date</li> <li>• House point total for each task to be removed from homework sheet and teacher judgement on how many house points to be given instead. This will be based on content/amount of work and ability to complete.</li> <li>• Ensure a route for every child so majority of homework is possible without parental support to ensure those children who do the majority/all homework on their own is possible.</li> <li>• Possible traffic light system, red, amber, green to indicate complexity of homework.</li> <li>• 3 week blocks would create more work for teachers. This may not be necessary with the implementation of start dates for some items of homework but will be looked into.</li> </ul>
4	<p><b><u>Group Photos</u></b></p> <p>Julie explained that there had been minimal uptake on the squad, orchestra and choir photographs and asked for feedback on these.</p> <p>Parents said they were not worried about these photos and that they would prefer for a group photo to be taken at the end of a match, tournament or event (more of a natural picture rather than a set photo)</p> <p>This could then be printed off for parents that want it at a small cost which would then go into the school fund.</p>

	<p>It was mentioned that the quality of photos this year (both individual and group) had not been so good. The school will request a different photographer for the photographs taken in the autumn term and we will monitor the quality of these pictures.</p> <p>If there is no improvement the school will look at different companies going forward.</p>
5.	<p><b><u>School Dinners</u></b></p> <p>Julie explained that the parent meals had had a positive take up at both Infant and Junior school (in particular the Infant school) and that it looks like the finance for school meals will come in almost even now.</p> <p>Parents had given positive feedback on the parent meals.</p> <p>It was asked if there was much wastage. Julie explained that wastage was minimal.</p> <p>There was some concern about cake being offered as a pudding every day and the content of sugar.</p> <p>Julie explained that this had been discussed with the catering area manager who had said that a little bit of cake on offer helps children to enjoy a school dinner rather than a packed lunch. She advised that we continue to offer cake with alternatives of yogurt and fruit as we currently do.</p> <p>Julie also explained that all cake is cooked on site and there is good control on the sugar content.</p>
6.	<p><b><u>Fund Raising Activities</u></b></p> <p>Madi presented the expected final figure for the years fundraising, a total of £20230.26 and the proposed events for next academic year.</p> <p>Julie thanked Madi, Kate and the fundraising team for their amazing efforts throughout this academic year.</p> <p>Julie asked for feedback on the summer fete being in a Friday. Majority of feedback was very positive. There had been mention from a parent that Friday was difficult due to work commitments but Julie explained that as parent help was still very low and a large number of staff man the stalls, Friday was preferable to Saturday.</p> <p>One suggestion was that year 7 ex pupils or sixth formers may like to come and help on stalls after school on the Friday and Julie also thought that year 6 might be able to help more next summer as they did at the Christmas fair.</p>
7.	<p><b><u>Parent Reps for Next Year</u></b></p> <p>Julie thanked the parent reps for their input and help through the year and asked if those present would be willing to continue next year. All very kindly agreed.</p>
8.	<p><b><u>Any Other Business</u></b></p> <p>Claire Haddock wanted to pass on that the SATs books for year 6 this year had been too difficult. Claire also passed on that quite a few parents had commented that there was too much homework during the Easter break (a 17 day project) on top of the SATs work and as a good number went away over Easter this was difficult to manage.</p> <p>Julie agreed about the SATs books and said both these concerns would be looked at for next year.</p>