

Parent Forum No. 13 - 10th March 2023 at 9.00am in the school hall

As ever it was a pleasure to see even a small number of parents in the school hall. With no specific agenda requests submitted in advance, Mrs Gage (Chair of Governors) opened by asking parents their opinion on the best time to send out the **Annual Survey of Parents this term**. The consensus was to send it out midweek and to close the following Friday (so 10 days with a reminder text). There was also a request to make it easy to fill in different replies for different children. Mrs Collins offered to help Mrs Gage achieve this.

The next topic raised was the imminence of an Ofsted visit. Mrs Collins talked through some of the things that Inspectors are looking for - for example evidence throughout the school of progress in reading and “Deep dives” into named subjects. Parents were interested to hear which subjects were led by which teachers as follows:

Ms Mitchell (Yr 6) PE and Computing;

Mrs Layzell (Yr 4) SENCo and Literacy;

Miss Smithyes (Y4) Science;

Miss Muir (Yr 3) Maths and Music;

Mrs Hailes (Yr 2) French;

Mrs Campbell (Yr 1) PSHRE and RE;

Miss Wiseman (Reception) EYFS, Phonics, History, Geography, Environment and Sustainability;

Mrs Collins (Headteacher) EYFS, Art and Design and Design and Technology

Parents asked about the success of the Parent Class Representative meetings held termly with Mrs Collins. This is another communication tool Mrs Collins introduced last year. She mentioned that a lot of time was used in bringing up issues best addressed by class teachers or in fact already being looked into. For future meetings she has asked Reps to bring no more than one query and one positive each time.

There was a short discussion of teaching strikes and whether parents had a full understanding of the issues which the strikers are representing. Mrs Collins always includes links to Union statements on letters sent to parents with information on the impact on their classes. The fact that much of this refers to the underfunding of schools and the fact that schools are expected to fund historic and future pay rises out of existing budgets with no additional funding, on top of the unsupported energy price rises and inflation, led to a general discussion about budgets. We are very fortunate in the work our School Business Manager continues to carry out keeping our budget balanced.

Referring back to previous Parent Forum discussions, parents were keen to praise the new PE Curriculum and its totally inclusive ethos. Special mention was made of the Whole School Skipping workshops.

The quality of school hoodies was a concern and Mrs Collins explained that Mrs Turney has details of alternatives in the office. There is also a lot of second hand uniform available in school which is exceptional value and a sustainable option for parents. It was suggested that it be made available in a corner of the hall on occasions when a lot of parents are in school (such as parents' evenings).

There was also praise for the new OPAL play systems at break and lunchtimes. This is developing children's abilities to assess risk. They are all definitely happier at playtimes. Any changes are worked through with children and also children are able to bring issues to the regular School Parliament meetings, which always have standing agenda items of Online safety, Eco awards and the environment, and OPAL.

The meeting ended with thanks to all present for giving their time.