



Diocese of Northampton
St Martin de Porres Catholic Primary School

Pastures Way Luton Bedfordshire LU4 0PF
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Minutes from Parent Voice Forum

Thursday 7 November 2019 at 2.30pm

Present:

Nicola Morgan (Head Teacher)
 Cheryl Harris (PA to Head Teacher and SLT)
 Parents Forum: Parent Representatives.

Item	Discussion Points	Action
1.	Agenda was circulated to the forum. Opening Prayer. NM thanked all for attending and introductions were made.	
2.	<p>Issues raised for discussion.</p> <p>NM advised that she would speak about any issues that had been raised by parents, via the form section on parentmail along with the feedback from the recent changes to Care Club and the new homework.</p> <p>Reading Challenge. NM noted that she thought the reading challenge cards had been changed to read that the books suggested are just an option for children to choose from. It is the schools intention that children should read 15 books throughout the year, 5 books per term to complete the challenge.</p> <p>A parent queried that they had lots of books at home for their child to read and if they could read it as part of the challenge. NM agreed they could however, some of the books on the list are a requirement and children would have to know the vocabulary used in some of the older texts for year 6.</p> <p>NM advised that any books they read that are not on the cards should be written in place of another suggested book.</p>	



Another parent enquired why the reading challenge cards only have the title of the book and not the author. NM advised that this would be changed and correspondence will be sent to parents.

NM advised that she would take the feedback and comments made by the parent voice forum back to the English Team.

Care Club.

NM advised that Care Club had undergone some changes with a new booking system and new staff. NM confirmed that we would not be looking to open Care Club any earlier than 7.50am and the hours of Care Club cannot be extended. NM also advised that if parents are unable to book their child into Care Club then this means that it is full. NM reminded parents that they should not turn up with their child to Care Club without making a booking, as this could result in no space being available for your child. Care Club has limits and for Health and Safety reasons; having more children than allowed in Care Club means we are not insured.

NM noted that there was an issue with booking Care Club if parents are using Childcare Vouchers or Student Finance which we hope is now resolved.

Cancelling & Rescheduling bookings: You can do this prior to the day on Parentmail otherwise you can contact Sian through phone or email. The email address for Care Club that can be used for this – careclub@smdpluton.co.uk

Homework.

NM advised that following the feedback from the homework survey, parents disliked the Learning Logs which is why the Passports were introduced as homework. NM noted that the Passports should be a way for parents and children to spend time together to do something fun, creative and to do something other than school work. NM advised that parents and children should choose 3 activities to complete per half term.

NM also advised that the school was looking at other online resources for children to assist with homework and learning. NM stressed she wanted to have a balance for children's mental health and to allow them to just be children.

A parent raised concerns that their child was struggling with the passport and that with the Learning Log, they could see what their child was learning about in school.

NM advised that she would take on board the concerns regarding the passport but also advised that parents could see on the school

website a curriculum overview for each year group, for each subject. NM also advised that learning journeys have also been introduced for each child and each subject. This is a map that children will take from Early Years to Year 6 which shows what they have learnt in each subject.

Another parent asked if it was possible to have the Learning Logs also, NM replied that the passport will run for the year and then the school will look into feedback at the end of the year.

NM noted that parents can add their own activities into the passport to complete too.

Parentmail Correspondence.

Following a parents concern over 'bumped head' emails or texts and not knowing which of their children had been hurt, NM confirmed that any message sent to parents will include the child's first name to elevate any confusion for parents with more than one child in the school.

A parent asked why the upcoming Year 4 Harry Potter trip had to be paid so early. NM advised that we have to pay for the tickets up front and given that the tickets are non-refundable it is not a cost the school can prefund. The Harry Potter studios are a popular attraction and tickets are sold out quite quickly. NM noted that the same had to be done for Young Voices tickets to reserve the amount of tickets needed.

NM advised that teachers have been asked to book all trips early, even at the end of the year, to assist parents with paying for them. As many parents have multiple children in the school it can be costly to have trips to pay all at once, this way parents have longer to pay.

A parent raised concerns over the short notice of a Cross Country competition. NM apologised for the short notice and advised that Active Luton had been late in sending out the information which had not given the school enough time to train and prepare the children. Having said that the children all did well in the competition.

RSE Workshop.

A parent had enquired with regards to what the school was planning regarding the government introduction to RSE on the curriculum. NM advised that we already have Relationship and Sexual Education in school and that it complies with the law and is approved by the Catholic Church.

NM also advised that the school will be holding a RSE workshop for parents on Wednesday 20th November after school. NM stressed that it would benefit all parents to attend, even if they have done so before, as different materials are supplied for different year groups.



	<p>Children coming into school in their PE kit on PE days.</p> <p>A parents had suggested that it may be useful for children to come in wearing their PE kit on their PE days to reduce the timeframe of changing and allowing more time for PE. NM advised that a big discussion was had regarding this subject but the school prefers children to come in in their uniform. NM worried that a life skill would be taken away from doing this and also the aspect of hygiene, especially for older children.</p> <p>NM noted the parents' concerns over PE and children being more active in school. NM also noted that we were sourcing funding for a track on the field and the new dance provision was working well.</p> <p>Play Equipment.</p> <p>A parent had queried the opportunities for children in KS1 to use the playground equipment. NM noted that there is a rota for each of the playground equipment and would make sure staff use the rota for children.</p> <p>Site Checks.</p> <p>A parents raised concerns regarding animal faeces on the ramp in the KS1 playground. NM advised that this is part of the site checks done every morning by the site agent; however, we have a family of foxes that live on the field who wander the grounds.</p> <p>Lost Uniform.</p> <p>A parent requested assistance with tracking down lost uniform. NM advised that all parents should label the uniform. There are two lost property bins either side of the school and all lost property is put into them. NM will again advise parents via the newsletter.</p>	
<p>3.</p>	<p>Ad Hoc Parental Comments.</p> <p>A parents asked if parents evening could be moved to later in the Advent term. They suggested that one month into the new school year, teachers have not had enough time to get to know the child or to assess them suitably. NM noted that she would speak with staff and see if this could be moved.</p> <p>Another parent enquired if more rewards can be given other than the Star of the Week to help boost the children's confidence. NM advised that she would speak with SLT to see if there is other ways to congratulate children's success.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p>AOB.</p>	

	NM asked for volunteers on behalf of the Friends of St Martins regarding the Christmas Bazaar. NM will advise of the next Friend's of St Martin's meeting once it has been confirmed.	
5.	Date of Next Meeting. To be confirmed.	

