

Today's meeting

1. NEW Behaviour Policy DRAFT

- HT shared the new draft Behaviour policy >> discussed the purpose – to ensure consistency across the whole school with clear consequences and rewards.
- Have already seen evidence to show that behaviour is improving.
- Behaviour across the whole school is GOOD but we want it to improve and make it outstanding
- Discussed the flow chart which teachers will follow that shows the steps to go through and the consequences at each stage.

2. School Dinners Delays

- Delays with school dinners due to the sheer number of children to get through the system since the introduction of Universal Free School Meals.
- Reception new to eating school dinners which delays others children getting into the hall.
- The situation is getting better. Reception children arrive in the hall at 11:45am, KS1 at 12pm and then KS2 once the younger children have finished. Packed lunch eating outside on the benches.
- Worries about packed lunch in the winter. Possibilities: adjusting KS2 lunchtime to start at 12:30 or 12:15 and then run for a full hour OR pupils eating lunch in a different location (Not preferable!)
- Tweaks being made every day to ensure children are having plenty of time to eat and don't feel rushed. Things are already a lot better. Kitchen getting ready earlier and things are becoming more and more streamlined.
- Discussions about some complaints that some children not eating enough alongside complaints that some children are being told to try more when they don't want to. Difficult balance. We want children to try their food and have a good attempt at eating what is on their plate whilst not trying to force them to eat things they don't want to! The school are getting better at it!

Action

→ Newsletter to include an explanation for parents about the issues and what the school is going to do to remedy the situation.

3. Text Messages not going out to all parents

- Parent discussed that the Text messages do not go out to all parents.
 - HT explained that sometimes we are not given the latest mobile number for some parents, the contact forms are not returned, numbers are not typed on to system correctly (our mistake) and on some occasions not all parents were sent a message for a particular purpose. E.g. the school can choose which groups of parents it sends texts to.
- Parent mentioned in that case not always being able to distinguish which one of the children the message is referring to (children in multiple classes)
- Parent questioned the policy of only sending out 'nits' messages to the class where the outbreak occurred. HT agreed that perhaps all need to receive it.

Action

→ Newsletter to encourage parents to check data is up-to-date in office

→ Text messages to clearly say which class it is applicable to

→ Newsletter to include reminder about Nits this week

4. Unfinished playground

- Positive comments about the playground. Nice smooth surface.
- Parent was concerned as to why the edging by the KS2 doors was not complete as it looks like 'the school just run out of money'
 - a. HT explained that the funding for this project was significantly lower than originally promised from Gov. Rather than cancelling the job we were able to scale it back in order to afford it.

Action

→ Due to be completed after new budget received.

→ School to ask parent association for help improving the library but also to develop outside areas further e.g. shelters and pagodas.

5. Mental Maths Homework

- HT reports that there were a few issues with the Mental Maths homework getting started due to delays with the order arriving, adjustments needed to the books the children were on etc. Especially in Year 2 and 3.
- HT reports that he hopes the problem is resolved by next week
- Some parents report about homework being too easy.
 - HT explained the reasoning behind the maths homework. Mrs MacFarlane has already prepared a letter for this to explain.

Action

→ HT to chase up issues with Maths homework (Particularly in Year 2)

→ HT to send out letter prepared by Mrs MacFarlane explaining the mental maths homework

6. Challenge for the higher performers

- Parent asked about how the school challenges able children as sometimes the homework is very easy in maths [See maths homework heading above].
 - HT explained that Boosters are aimed at all levels and so some children who are performing well are challenged and extended in the booster groups.
 - HT explained that teachers will also be differentiating work in the class so children have more challenging work (this may not always be obvious to a child – because as teachers we are good at disguising it)
 - HT also explained that children would also receive challenge from the grouping within class or within the phonics sets.
 - HT said that we are currently developing our provision for Able Gifted and Talented pupils which will include enrichment activities.

7. After school clubs

- Feedback about the new after school clubs were mainly positive. All agreed that although comments (from some parents not attending the meeting were that the club was too expensive), the parents present said that there was nothing like it provided by any other Felixstowe school and where there are sports clubs at other schools the prices e.g for Premier Sports, was very expensive.

- Areas of concern were mainly about the space the children have, the fact that the area is very noisy and so there is no chance of completing homework or reading a book without being disturbed.
- Some parents raised concerns about having to pay up front, the fact that the club policies were only produced recently and only handed out in the last few days and that parents had thought that it would be much more flexible than it actually is.
 - HT explained that due to staff levels the club needs to know in advance how many children they are expecting on any one day. The club also needs to make sure that it doesn't lose money by employing staff and not having enough children turning up.
- HT said that he was meeting with Sara who runs the club to discuss tweaking aspects to improve it further.

Action

- HT to meet with Sara to make improvements to the club (Monday 29th Sept)
- Discuss possibility of having access to other spaces within the school for the club to spread out more.
- Quote needed for new doorway in KS1 areas to create easy access to outdoor space for After School club but also to benefit KS1.

8. Dryer in girls KS2 toilet

- Doesn't seem to be working

Action

- School to check dryers, fix or replace

9. Boots for girls in the winter

- Originally this was included in the new uniform policy. It was removed in the final draft based on feedback received and from sharing with the governors. This was explained in the guidance given out with the finalised policy.
- HT clarified – Winter boots can be worn **to** school for health and safety reasons and for comfort... however like the boys and their trainers for football, girls will need **to change** into normal school shoes once in the building. This should keep their feet warmer, prevent them from sitting wearing damp boots all day and prevent further creation of hazards around the building e.g. when snow starts melting off their boots!

Action

→ Will be added to the newsletter for clarification

Thank you to all those parents who came along to the meeting. Hopefully with honest, open discussion we can continue to make improvements to the school.
Mr Stock

Next Parent Forum Meeting: 11th November 2014 @ 2:30