

## Today's meeting – Agenda

### 1. Budget

- Hope to make significant improvement to the facilities in the Early Years
- If enough money; finish off the playground (near KS2 doors), girls KS1 toilets (new cubicles), outside door in KS1 area, fixed projection in the school hall.
- Parents offered to paint the girls toilets (Smarten and freshen up!), if new cubicles are purchased.
- Hand dryers replaced (discussed at previous meetings)
- Mr Stock to contact parents to coordinate painting following works □
- Mr Stock to publish more details about the budget in the newsletter when agreed. □

### 2. OFSTED INSPECTION

- Pleased with result. Still lots of work to do. Most areas are good, some areas are outstanding and some areas still require improvement (these are the areas that the school has been addressing over the last term).
- Will focus on behaviour and safety category in the next School Development Plan (starting in April) as this was the area that the school were closest to an outstanding judgement.
- Discussed the reasons why the school cannot be complacent and the need to continue to build on the successes over the last few years but develop and embed a lot of the systems which are still in the early stages. In order to be outstanding – need to be CONSISTENT. Currently, there is plenty of good and outstanding things happening but these need to be happening on a consistent basis.
- Discussed how the inspection was in general, and although from the outside it may have appeared that a 'good' grading was inevitable, we had to battle and really prove ourselves. The team sifted through loads of evidence, SCRUTINISED the books and interrogated the data the school had. The benefits of such a rigorous process means we feel that we are definitely a good school.

→ School development plan 2015 to be published on the school website from April 2015 onwards □

### **3. Book Bags or Back Packs?**

- As mentioned in the newsletter. A range of comments received, some in support of the back packs but the majority suggesting that they are far too big and unnecessary. Some of the comments in support for the back packs, were able being able to bring changes of shoes e.g. for football on the field, holder for drinks bottles.
- HT discussed the benefits of a move towards the book bags and the ease of storing these. KS1 parents discussed how the bags are so big they take over the KS1 area and take up so much space.
- HT proposed that from now on; new parents arriving will be urged to purchase school book bags, children in general will be encouraged to use book bags but the school will still allow children to bring back packs to school. HT may look at purchasing a new style of book bag, perhaps with a little more storage or subsidise the first bag for every pupil in order to encourage their use. Back packs will no longer be sold by the school. Each classroom will have a location to store book bags so they are easily accessible. Each class will also have a P.E box where P.E bags will stored neatly rather than taking space up on pegs.  
→ HT to put the above proposals in to action, unless any other ideas are suggested. □

### **4. Parents asked if Mr Stock was now leaving as the school has achieved a 'good'.**

- Mr Stock explained that his main goal was to help move the school to a 'good' OFSTED grading but currently has no plans to leave the school. He wants to ensure that systems that have been implemented over the last year are embedded and structures are in place for the school to continue to move forwards and grow.

### **5. Parents asked for clarity over the arrangements for cover in the year 2 class**

- HT explained – Mrs Foote has moved to Mon, Tue and Weds, whilst Mrs Wilson has returned from maternity leave to cover Thursday and Friday.
- In order to ensure the class are unaffected by the mid year teacher change, Mr Stock will be teaching around 11 pupils from the class in a separate set

for maths. This will ensure the children remaining in the classroom with Mrs Foote will benefit from smaller groups sizes and additional adult support which is available in that classroom.

- Mrs Foote will teach the majority of the maths and reading whilst Mrs Wilson will teach the bulk of the writing. This is to ensure that standards remain consistent.

→ Mr Stock has already sent a letter out to the parents within that class □

## 6. School's use of HLTA's

- Parents asked if it was true that Teaching Assistants were being used to teach classes?
- Mr Stock explained that T.As do not teach or cover classes. He did explain however that the school does use HLTA's to cover classes in the event of teacher sickness and to release particular staff to carry out management responsibilities. A HLTA (High Level Teaching Assistant) has been trained to deliver lessons that have been planned and prepared by the class teacher. All HLTA's are trained (as the name suggests) to a higher level and achieved (at least) a level 3 qualification. Some of our HLTA's are level 3 trained but are also trained to very high levels in other areas of Special Educational needs.
- The school uses this approach as Supply Teachers are expensive and have not been able to offer better provision than what our HLTAs can offer. If possible in the new budget, staff will hopefully only be covered by TEACHING staff from within the school for management release time.

## 7. Teaching arrangements for next year

- Parents asked if the current teacher will be staying in the year groups they are teaching currently?
- Mr Stock explained that it is too early to say. The deadline for teacher resignations is not until May half term and so it would not be sensible to pass on information about who is teaching where at this present time. This information is usually shared with parents in an additional newsletter on the day of the School's Open Night (July).
- Mr Stock indicated that it would be likely that class teachers may stay where they are as it would be useful to consolidate the new curriculum topics which were only put in place this year. It did explained that movement between year groups is often difficult in small schools, as there is then a risk that children will experience the same teacher more than

once. This is okay if the child responded well to a particular teacher but difficult if the children didn't particular gel with the teacher.

- Some parents discussed that some children have had the same teacher for two years in a row. Mr Stock explained that this was inevitable in the switch from mixed year group classes to single year group classes.  
→ Mr Stock to release class teacher information on the same date as last year. □

## 8. Are the Afternoons too long in Key Stage 2?

- Parents asked if the school day could be shortened in any way, as the afternoon is long and the school starts earlier than some and finishes later than some.
  - Mr Stock that it would be something for Governors to discuss but is not something that he felt was necessary. Mr Stock explained that the knock on effect to adjusting ends of school days could be problematic;
    - Parents work commitments
    - Knock on effect to breakfasts and after school clubs
    - Ability for some parents to pick children up from high schools and get to Trimley in time for an earlier pick up.
    - Not able to currently fit the entire curriculum into the timetable as it is, to lose 15 minutes off each day would make it even more difficult to cover the curriculum.
- Mr Stock to speak to Governors to see if they would be interested in shortening the school day. □
- Mr Stock to include elements in the new school development that improve learning and concentration in the afternoon sessions.

## 9. Parking Outside School

- Parents commented about the parking outside the school. Mr Stock commented that it is on-going problem and any proposal to eradicate the situation will cost substantial amounts of money (e.g. using part of the school field to create a pull in area).
- Mr Stock reported about the work that Graham Boulding has been doing to help address the issue.
  - Mr Stock to include reminders in the newsletter about use of the bay outside school at the end of the school day, explaining that parents will be issued with leaflets written by the children □
  - Mr Stock to send out reminder by text. □

Next Parent Forum Meeting: Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May @ 14:30