

Today's meeting

1. Head Bump Process

Discussed changes to the head bump process. Asked if any parents had any issues with the current process. Parents commented that the amount of times the school sends a text message has increased. HT explained that the school would like parents to make the final call. HT did explain the new sticker given to head bump children has led to an increase in head bumps! HT says that the process has improved and ensures information is passed onto other clubs. Assemblies have been carried out to explain sensible playground behaviour and correct use of the first aid room.

- ✓ HT to continue to share the message with the children about sensible play at lunchtime.
- ✓ HT to monitor the amount of text messages being sent to parents during lunchtime.

2. Hi Viz Vests

Parent asked whether the children can have high visibility vests to wear when on school trips, particularly the trips that have recently taken place in the local area and involve walking. HT explained that the school has these vests and they stored under the stairs in the entrance hall area. HT explained that these were purchased after a parent raised the issue before.

- ✓ HT to remind staff that the school has hi-visibility vests for the children to use on school trips.

3. Helpers in the school classroom

Parent asked whether parents are still being used for readers etc in the classroom as their name was put down at the beginning of the year but have yet to be asked to come in and support. HT explained that some class teachers have quite a lot of adult support in the classroom already and so may not always need other adults all of the time. Some other teachers may also have wanted to see how things were working in the classroom before inviting in others to support.

- ✓ HT will remind staff across the school to look at the adults who offered to support and make arrangements for them to come and help if appropriate.

Another parent asked whether they can be flexible with the support they are offering as they cannot always do the same days every week. HT explained that as long as teachers were aware which day the parent was available then they could be ready to expect additional support during that time.

- ✓ Parents make contact with the class teacher to let them know which day they are available and the frequency (e.g. every other week OR every 3rd week)

4. Homework Club

Parent asked if there was a possibility of the school running a homework club. Parents agreed that they were happy to pay for this option. HT said it was something the school were considering, similar to another after school club. Some parents were misusing 'cheaper' clubs in order to save money on paying for the after school club. In some cases children had little interest in the content of the club, they were added to the list as it was a cheaper alternative. Parents discussed the reasons for needing the homework club:

- (a) Multiple siblings all needing to do homework
e.g. [5x Reading 1xMaths] x multiple children
- (b) Negative interactions occurring over homework completion – sometimes caused by parent / child frustration
- (c) Parents feeling like their understanding isn't strong enough to support the child on the homework.
- (d) Some children saying to parents they don't understand something at home, despite being capable of completing it in class.

HT explained that maths homework should be able to be completed independently with minimal support. If the content is too challenging, parents must speak with the class teacher.

HT explained that parents shouldn't need to teach children concepts from the book. The maths has been designed to enable children to recap on basic maths skills. These should be elements the child has in place already.

HT explained that Maths curriculum day in November will be an opportunity to learn the maths calculation methods alongside the children.

HT explained that the school has a homework support group but this takes place during the day and teachers refer within the school to Mrs Lawrence who leads the group.

HT also explained that the biggest reason for children being set homework is in preparation for secondary school, and so when Mr Stock meets with the SLT (Senior Leadership Team) he will discuss whether we believe the school wants to start supporting children in school with things that have been designed to be completed at home.

It was suggested that parents could be used to support the homework club.

✓ HT to discuss the possibility of creating an after school club.

5. Multiple siblings receiving letters.

Parent asked if there was a way of reducing the amount of physical letters being sent home in families where there is more than one child. In some cases, families are receiving 3 copies of the newsletter etc. HT explained that the school are looking into the possibility of using the text messaging system to send out emails also to parents, saving on substantial amounts of paper. The system will also send just one copy of the letter to parents. Letters which have reply slips will continue to be sent out.

✓ HT will meet with Kate Simpson to discuss the possibility of this, as well as perhaps readjusting print number to take into account letters only being given to the older sibling.

6. Nits

The issue of nits was raised again by two parents. Some parents are having to repeat treatments for nits as they keep returning. Parents asked what the school is doing about the treatment of nits. HT reiterated the message of how the school is helping out parents of children who are repeatedly having outbreaks. HT has provided treatment materials to a number of families along with advice from the nurse. HT explained that he understands the frustrations but the school is continuing to work with families to ensure outbreaks are reduced. A parent suggested that the children should wear hats to prevent the transfer of nits. HT declined. A parent suggested that the

entire school should be treated. HT declined. HT explained that after investigation that the experts suggest that Nits have developed resilience to the treatments. The HT has asked the school nurse to provide further information on the treatment of nits. This will be sent out soon. School nurse will be available during the Thursday parents evening in order to give advice to prevent and treat nits.

HT had said that some parents had commented that parents not treating nits was neglect and social services should be contacted. HT explained that the school work with a number of families for a number of different reasons, however, non-treatment of nits is not something that would meet the thresholds for social services. Every day the school works with families and coordinates meetings with learning support services, housing and health, however, this information is confidential and so the any work that the school carries out cannot be discussed.

✓ HT will look to see if there is anything else the school can do.

Following the meeting, HT looked at reported outbreaks and in which classes the nits have been present by tracking back the class text messages that were sent out towards the end of last year and early this year. The results show that the current year 1, current year 4 and the old year 6 (now year 7) have seen the most outbreaks.

✓ HT to discuss with other head teachers in Felixstowe at the Felixstowe Head teacher meeting on 9th October.

The Head teachers were surprised at the amount of things we have done as a school to address parents' concerns about Head lice and were unable to offer any additional advice.

7. Traffic

HT discussed the traffic issue outside school. He explained that some parents are parking on the double yellow lines which is causing a hazard. Letters have been sent to these parents suggesting that their parking is putting our children in danger. A parent suggested the school hiring a private firm to clamp outside the school. HT explained that the school has no power outside the school gates and so would not be able to do such a thing. HT also explained that the money the school has will be spent on children's learning. The HT has said that the Police and Highways Agency have been contacted

and will make regular checks. HT will continue to send letters to poor parking parents and will continue to alert parents in the newsletter. In assemblies, HT will discuss with the children being safe outside the school but after that this is nothing else the school can do to change the situation outside school, especially as Mrs Ross reports – this has been the case for as long as she has been employed at the school [18 years!].

8. Drama Club

Parent asked what's happened to Drama Club. As mentioned above, there were a number of children who attended the drama club who said 'they didn't want to be there.' The parent who had volunteered to run the club felt although she was able to carry out some basic drama skills perhaps the children were too young. It has been decided that perhaps the drama group be aimed at slightly older children.

- ✓ HT will send out information to parents whose children attended previously to alert the club has ended.
- ✓ HT will send out information to invite older year groups to the club.

9. Toilets

Parent asked about the toilets in KS2 as her child is nervous about using the toilets as they are always blocked. Another parent said it was raised last time. HT explained that the original had been addressed but recently he had to speak to the children in assembly about not flushing the chain and shoving lots of paper down the toilet. HT explained that during the lunchtimes, the first aid location is changing and so an adult will be supervising the toilet area for the entire lunchtime. The adult will make regular checks to the toilet area during the lunchtime period whilst also ensuring any silliness is addressed.

- ✓ HT to set up checking log for toilet
- ✓ New signs to be put up in toilets asking children to pull the chain and not put clumps of toilet roll down the loo.

10. Nut allergies

Parent asked what the school does for children with nut allergies. HT explained the procedures in place for nut allergies. The cook and the dinner staff are all aware of children with allergies. All staff who have children in their class with allergies are EPI PEN trained.

Next Parent Forum Meeting: Friday 22nd January 2016

9:00am – 10:00am