

Minutes of Parent Forum Meeting

10th October 2016 at Soudley School

1. School Development

Mrs. Hetenyi showed parents an overview of the School Development Plan for 2016/2017.(See attached)

The three focus areas are:

1. Improving outcomes in writing
2. Improving outcomes in maths
3. Ensuring the sustainability of EYFS

In addition to the key areas, the school will continue to develop Global Learning, SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Community learning), British Values, Skills for Life and Rights Respecting Schools. We are all learning in a learning community. Want to develop the whole child.

Mr. Osborne outlined the key actions for improving writing as English subject lead.

Mrs. Hetenyi discussed some key initiatives for improving maths outcomes eg. "Mathletics" weblink being set up and "Top Marks" is up and running for children in Hornets. Creates Home School link for personalised learning. Times tables badges have been a great success and momentum has continued.

Maths has been identified as a weak area across the West Gloucestershire Schools Partnership area and training is being arranged within the WGSP.

Also looking at effective triangulation of marking, feedback and monitoring.

Mrs. Jones gave an example of a pupil she observed applying their newly learned times tables in a lesson. Application of learning will be important moving forward.

Parents said they thought the times table badges were a great initiative and one said she liked the fact that the 1x1 table was a badge so that it was achievable for all.

A parent shared times table "tricks".

2. EYFS

The new Early Years Foundation Stage has been in place since the start of term and the benefits are already being widely felt. The staff commented on how much easier the planning for teaching and learning has been now that all children are in their key stages.

One of the main aims of the new EYFS is to see the positive impacts on teaching and learning as children move up through the school. Eg. At the end of Reception,

children don't always reach the national benchmark for writing. The EYFS should have a positive impact on these outcomes by giving children a flying start.

There are currently 7 children of nursery age attending and this will rise to 10 in January. There is capacity for 13 children.

Chair asked whether the nursery children were being integrated into the daily life of the school? They are eating their lunch with the rest of the school and are taking part in whole school activities whenever possible and practicable.

3. Cyber Bullying and Peer on Peer Abuse.

This is currently a focus area for the government. Mrs. Hetenyi showed parents the relevant extract from the Keeping Children Safe in Education document issued by the DfE. "Sexting" has become a key area of concern.

Key message is that peer on peer abuse of any kind cannot be dismissed as "banter".

It is important that children are given the space and opportunities to say that they have worries.

Parents were recently signposted to an information evening at Ellwood school on Internet Safety and this week the pupils in Years 4,5 and 6 are receiving a talk on cyberbullying from a PCSO.

Mrs. Hetenyi made reference to an interesting article from the Guardian newspaper describing recent trends in children's internet use and behaviours.

<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2016/oct/01/cyberbullying-what-if-its-your-child-at-fault>

The chair commented that it was important that as parents we remain vigilant and keep a close eye on our children's internet activity.

4. Community of Learners

This a new school document which was circulated to parents a few weeks ago. It describes what life is like at Soudley School with links to key learning areas. It is an accessible and colourful way of explaining who we are as a school alongside our teaching and learning philosophy. It was very well received.

Parents left the meeting to look around the EYFS area.

Meeting finished at 7.15pm