



Stakesby Community Primary School

Parent Rep Meeting Minutes

17th October 2016 3.30pm-4.30pm

In attendance: Amanda Hutchinson, Emma Davis, Rebecca Burrell-Smith, Kerry Edmond, Emma Bartlett, Michelle Sutherland, Vicky Jackson, Sarah Locker, Roy Gunning, Alison Leather

Apologies from: Nicky Thornton, Helen Tillson, Lindsay Winter

Mrs Leather welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for agreeing to be the Parent Rep for their class this year. Mrs Leather noted that this year parents were represented in every year group from Nursery to Year 6 which is really important for getting a full picture of views/experiences across the school. A special welcome was given to Rebecca Burrell-Smith who is new to the team this year and will be representing the parents in Acorns with a specific link to Super Squirrels.

Start to the new academic year 2016-17

Mr Gunning and Mrs Leather reported a smooth start to the new year with no major teething problems. Reps were then invited to contribute on this with a specific view on their class. All reps reported that they had experienced a settled start to the year with their children with no major issues. All groups have settled in quickly with their new teachers.

There was a short discussion around the transition from KS1 to KS2. Mrs Leather explained how the transition had been managed with visits into the new room and visits from Mrs Baker into the Year 2 classroom to work together with Mrs Leather and the children in summer term. This year the decision was made to also move staff (Mrs Leather, Mrs Atkinson and Miss Speer) through with the children

to ease transition. It was noted that these measures had led to a very smooth transition between key stages.

Mr Gunning asked if communication from school to home via termly dates, newsletters etc were effective? The general view was yes although it was noted that cancellation of clubs at short notice can be problematic for parents. Mr Gunning acknowledged this and apologised for any inconvenience experienced. He went on to explain that wherever possible clubs will run although on a few occasions due to unavoidable circumstances eg staff sickness, clubs may need to be cancelled. Mr Gunning did reassure the reps that school will always look after the children until they are able to be collected.

Reps asked for clarification on the dismissal of KS1 pupils at the end of the day. Mrs Leather explained that as the children are older, they are not dismissed one by one via the backdoor as is the system in Early Years. The rear door at the end of the school day has too much traffic for this to be a realistic system. Mrs Leather explained that the children are trained by the teaching staff to tell an adult when they can see their 'grown up' and that if they can't, they must return to the staff and tell them. The rear door is always supervised by a number of staff and any unclaimed children are brought back into school to wait by the office. If necessary, the office staff will contact a parent by phone and if the child has a long time to wait they will be supervised in Tea Time Terrors until they can be collected.

Homework

Mrs Leather asked for feedback on the new homework system and Homework Club. The response from reps was positive. The reps liked that all their children had the same style and quantity of homework and the same deadlines (Mon-Mon). They also liked the fact that the homework books provide them as parents with a clear picture of the expectations for the year.

It was mentioned that children (and parents) were finding the comprehension homework the most challenging. Mr Gunning and Mrs Leather acknowledged that this was the general view coming back from parents and pupils. The homework reflects the expected standard of the new National Curriculum. Mr Gunning went on to add that we were not alone as nationally this was an issue which is exactly why we as a school were addressing the issue with regular practise. He then went on to explain the theories of 'Growth Mindset' to the reps which to simplify, does

not put a ceiling upon the expectations for the children thus fostering a culture of resilient learning where anything is possible.

All reps who are using Homework Club reported that they were very happy with it and that their children enjoyed going.

Website

The reps were asked to comment on the new school website which is now up and running. The website was put on the smartboard whilst Mr Gunning talked through some of the features. The website will also be available as an app so that it can be viewed clearly on a mobile phone. Experience of using the website varied between reps. Mr Gunning hoped that the new website would be more user friendly than the old one. Kerry Edmond mentioned an occasion where information about certificate winners was placed on the website before the winners were announced in assembly. Mrs Leather apologised for this but explained that as staff contribute weekly and usually within their working week there may be occasions where the 'cart comes before the horse' in attempts to keep the website up to date and relevant.