



Stakesby Community Primary School

Parent Rep Meeting Minutes

9th February 2016 3.30pm-4.30pm

In attendance: Kerry Edmond, Amanda Esson, Lindsay Winter, Michelle Sutherland, Emma Garbutt, Nicky Thornton, Vicky Jackson, Sarah Locker, Roy Gunning, Helen Tillson, Alison Leather

Apologies from: Emma Davis

- The theme for the meeting was:

'How can we help you support your child's learning?'

We also wanted to know what format parents found most useful eg. workshops, presentations, information leaflets, seeing staff and pupils working, links to useful websites.

Response: The Reps felt in general that a range and variety of formats would be beneficial without having a particular preference for a specific format.

What subjects/areas of learning would you like to learn more about?
Eg. Forest Schools, Reading, Phonics, Writing, Maths, R.E, etc...

Response: Although Reps are interested in the wider curricular areas of learning, it was felt that information to help with 'the basics' of English and Maths were most important.

On-line homework and links were discussed. Reps would like more information on the most regularly used websites. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to parents with an overview of Mathletics, Sumdog and Reading Eggs.

Reps asked about the quantity of on-line homework and were concerned about children who could not access the internet at home. Mr Gunning agreed to speak to staff about the amount of homework being set and explained that some challenges set on-line, although beneficial, are optional.

Reps raised understanding new terminology specific to Maths and English was sometimes a barrier to understanding what their children were learning. Definitions of term with particularly grammar, maths and phonics would help with this.

Early Years parents have questioned joining handwriting in the Early Years. Mr Gunning explained that joining writing from a young age can be beneficial to the quality of handwriting as children do not have to learn a printed style and then re-learn to join later on. Joining can also have a positive impact upon spelling and reading as the children learn the shapes of whole words from the beginning. This has been particularly helpful for children whom find reading and/or writing difficult.

- Pupil Questionnaires

Mr Gunning provided feedback on a recent pupil questionnaire carried out across the school. Once again, the responses received from the children were very positive.

- Facebook-an update

Mrs Tillson led the update. She stated that we wanted our Facebook page to be very unique to Stakesby School. The page is now up and running with text reminders and updates. Also we are including any school celebrations and up and coming events for the whole school.

Mrs Tillson assured the Reps that the text messaging service will not go as this is used to alert parents to matters needing their attention. We intend to use Facebook in a different way. At the moment, Facebook is being used for 'broadcasting' only with the intention of moving towards two way interaction at a later date.

Reps expressed their concerns about the potential for undesirable comments being posted on Facebook. Mr Gunning assured Reps that

anything of that nature would be dealt with in the same way as any other complaint.

At the moment, only Mrs Tillson and Mrs Gurney have access to Facebook but the intention is that more staff will be able to contribute as system becomes established.

The Reps also put forward some ideas about things they felt would be useful to have on Facebook including; links to community events, dinner menu for the week, newsletter and school closures.

- Review of school website

Mr Gunning asked for feedback on our current school website. Some Reps said they never used it, while others said it was difficult to navigate and also commented that there were inconsistencies between class blogs (some being updated more regularly than others). Mr Gunning explained that to monitor regular updates on the website, he had enlisted TAs to score on many aspects of school, the website being checked weekly to sort an issues. Mr Gunning then went on to say that school was in the process of revamping the website with the aim being to move towards a more user friendly format.

- A.O.B

Reps raised that a list of events for next half term had not been received. It was agreed that this would be sent out to parents a.s.a.p.

Road safety outside school was raised as a concern, in particular parking in bus lay-by and the gateway to the field. Mr Gunning acknowledged the issue which is a problem shared by all schools at beginning and end of the school day. He then went on to outline the measures school has taken to improve safety at these times including; signs, messages in newsletters, naming and shaming, patrols of community police officer etc.