



NEWBOTTLE & CHARLTON CEVA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Every person matters, every moment counts "I can do all this through him who gives me strength"

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Headteacher: Mr Peter Smith

Chair Of Governors: Lady Hayter

Parent Forum Minutes 24.2.22- 8:40am

Present: Mrs Palmer (Oak and Elm), Mrs Warren-Wood (Oak and Elm), Mrs Price (Ash and Elm), Mrs Peel-Yates (Birch), Mrs Kelly (Birch)

Apologies- Mrs Blundell (Ash and Elm)

The aims of the Parent Forum:

A Parent Forum is a partnership between parents and the school. It is a valuable way to share ideas, views, concerns and make suggestions for improvement. The aims of the Parent Forum:

- ➤ to work together to improve the education provided for our children
- ➤ to share information, knowledge, and skills
- ➤ to meet in a mutually supportive environment
- ➤ to further improve communications between parents/carer/ staff/governor

Mr Smith welcomed and thanked those in attendance for coming to the meeting and discussed the purpose of the forum which included the above bullet points and a place to share things that are going well in school but also things that need clarifying or concerns that lots of parents have so that they can be solved quickly before they become a larger problem. Mr Smith also explained that the forum was a good way to explain rationale behind some decisions that parents might be questioning and also to seek parents' views on decisions the school are making.

Points for discussion

1. General communication

- Feedback on the weekly newsletter was positive as it was easy to read and access on phones etc
- Reduction of paper letter and leaflets was helpful as it had been too much in the past.
- Amount of communication through text were right in relation to mufti days, trips, PTFA events
- PS had reflected on Bikeability communication should have been electronic as paper copies were lost this year.
- Parents were grateful for the school adapting during the pandemic with communication ie. Outside achievement assembly. Mr Smith was pleased it was appreciated as many school haven't done that.
- Parents discussed the late notice of the Elm Trip. Mr Smith apologised for this. School hasn't in the past left it so late but due to staffing issues with covid-19 it wasn't picked up that it hadn't been sent out until half term.
- Parents discussed that they would have liked the residential for Elm class to have been sent out to parents first as some children came out of school worried about staying over (mainly Year 3). Mr Smith understood this opinion as for many new parents who don't have older siblings they weren't aware of the residentials that school went on before the pandemic hit. Mr Smith explained that normally Year 4 go to Grendon (which has now closed). A decision was made to go on a class residential which would hopefully help finances as some children would pay for a summer residential in Year 4 then have to pay a few months later in Year 5. Keeping them together rather than one year group school thought would be a positive ending to the year. Mr Smith had also picked a nice relaxed venue for the residential which has much more family feel to support children



being away. He understood that some children would be nervous especially as they wouldn't have gone away before. He explained that often even before the pandemic children might be anxious about staying over and we would work with families to support them with this. Often they would practice having sleepovers before the time. It was noted that it is often the unknown that worries the children and Mr Smith said that any parent could email to find out more information. He will also do a presentation about it sooner rather than later to help families make up their mind. In the many years of going on residential there are children who don't always attend and that was fine for them to do so. Currently Mr Smith will be going on both residential with TAs and class teachers in each class.

- Parents discussed that some messages get sent home but not through official channels. Mr Smith explained that we will endeavour to give all information through these channels with enough notice.
- Mr Smith explained that sometimes letters were sent out with less notice especially for sporting events as often the event is confirmed with the school at the last minute.
- There was some confusion in Elm about PE days as they did PE on Monday and some parents keep their PE kit in for the week and some take it in on PE days only. Mr Smith explained that some children do a PE intervention on a Monday or prepare for a competition and wouldn't need their kits but ideally trainers. It was discussed that was an issue for some parents having to provide two sets of trainers. Mr Smith understood and will make these interventions groups clearer on the newsletter. There was discussion about wearing PE kits on PE days. Mr Smith explained that this is a highly debated topic amongst parents. The reason for the change was the weather but he would open it out for a discussion for the summer term.
- Parents explained they would love to have more general work shown on Seesaw about what they are doing as they aren't always aware as we have not been having PATH time and assemblies. They also liked that KS1 were sharing what they were doing during their choosing time (CCT) Mr Smith will discuss with teachers about how we share what is going on in class but he is positive that he would be able to invite parents in to see work soon. It was explained that lots of schools don't have anything like Seesaw so it was pleasing to hear parents liked the platform. It was discussed that some elements are fiddly and maybe a short tutorial could be shared with staff.

2. Homework

- Generally positive- Like the use of Seesaw, the flexibility to do it at different times and to choose tasks that fit around the week. An option was raised to complete the homework through a paper booklet. Mr Smith explained that this had been an option if people struggled with having to use multiple devices to do homework but he would reiterate this again for parents. Teachers mark work every Monday with either a like- If a comment is not needed i.e. reading eggs, a recorded or written comment. Parents explained this wasn't always consistent across the school and Mr Smith will discuss this with teachers. Some discussions were had on the doing the homework weekly as some children need deadlines. Mr Smith said that discussions with teachers could be had between parents on this to help motivate children.

Other points were discussed:

3. School Dinners

- Lots of parents aren't as happy with the lunch meals at the moment. Reasons included- Not enough options available, not having what they ordered and the quantity of food for the children to fill them up. Mr Smith explained that the previous cook didn't always follow the guidelines set by Fresh Start which meant that we unknowingly were having extra or slightly alternative things to what they normally do. Mr Smith explained that he was frustrated as the kitchen have been having delivery problems which meant that some food hasn't come in time. Mr Smith asked Parents Forum reps to find out numbers who are unhappy so he could complain to the company on their behalf. Lots of parents in KS2 will be going to packed lunch which will show the company that parents



aren't happy. Mr Smith explained that outsourcing help to cover staff absences but he would be in communication with them but he was also not happy at the moment.

4. Security

- It was noticed that the hall door is left open and there was a concern over security. Mr Smith explained that generally this is only when adults are in there but will talk to staff about this to ensure this is the only time.

5. Practical learning

- It was noted about ensuring that there are practical elements to lessons to help with future jobs but also because children learn in different ways. Mr Smith explained that lots of practical learning does happen but due to covid-19 this was sometimes this wasn't happening to reduce mixing. Due to long term mapping of the curriculum some lessons can be more practical than others but lessons like Maths etc will become more active, especially for KS2.

6. Raffle Tickets

- It was noted that some children due to the luck of the prize draw don't get any prizes for working hard while others have several times but maybe aren't as focussed. Mr Smith understood their thoughts on this and the idea is that more raffle tickets mean a larger chance but maybe further discussions need to be had with children about this part of achievement assembly.

7. Holiday Clubs

- Parents asked whether there would be Easter and Summer holiday clubs this year. Mr Smith explained that it has been a complicated to organise. Before the pandemic Pre-school did it with the school which meant we had enough first aiders and staff to do 4 weeks. As they are now doing it separately it is harder to get enough staff to commit due to changes in booking holidays etc and have enough first aiders. As there is some more stability with staff booking holidays, we should be able to work it out further in advance. It was also noted by parents about staff having time for a break. Parents discussed having outside providers to come in to help with this. Mr Smith said he was looking into it and will approach Pre-school again about a joint adventure. He was hopeful that school would be able to do at least 2 weeks in summer. He will share about Summer holiday club at the start of next term. Mr Smith will share the decision on Easter Holiday club asap.

8. Clubs

- Parents asked whether clubs would start to be mixed more across the key stages soon so that children could do other clubs. Mr Smith explained that due to bubbles it was easier to do separate clubs but in the future certain clubs could be mixed. Mr Smith explained that cooking in the summer would be Oak and Ash class with Polly as some were worried they would miss out.

9. Parents Evening

- It was discussed about parents evening being face-to-face and parents agreed this was a good decision but that they could be an option for parents to have a phone conversation. Depending on numbers this might need to be on a different day to the school only having 2 phone lines.

Meeting finished 9:25am
Next meeting in April/May- TBC
Minutes by PSmith