



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 17.5.22- 8:40am

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

Apologies- Mrs Blundell (Ash and Elm)

Points for discussion

1. School Dinners

- General feedback is that the menu isn't as good as before. PS explained that parents need to contact Fresh Start to express their feelings on this as the school doesn't have any say over the menu.
- There was feedback again on:
 - portion sizes and that their children are having more packed lunches.
 - Children in both KS1 and KS2 are sometimes hungry. PS explained he was checked and often the meal sizes are good but he does think pizza days aren't very filling and will discuss this with Rebecca (the cook).
 - Sometimes there isn't enough of the pudding or some confusion that about whether they can have fruit and a pudding. PS will look into this and remind children.
 - Their child didn't have any gravy with their roast dinner. PS explained there was always gravy available but maybe children didn't know where it was so will check.
- Comments were made on the nice food at the taster session but that some children commented that wasn't what they got. PS to look into this.
- Comments were made that children didn't have enough time to eat in second sitting. PS explained that children had around 35 minutes but that often children rush or don't eat enough as they want to go out to play. PS will investigate this.
- PS will remind children about different procedures like not rushing their lunch, going to salad bar etc.

2. PE Kits

- Questions were made from parents unsure of when their children should be bringing PE kit in to school. PS explained that a reminder is put in the newsletter every week on next weeks dates but that it would be easier to bring it in every Monday for the week. Items are getting lost with names on so a reminder will be sent to check what is brought home as sometimes clothes get mixed up. PS commented that there continues to be so much lost property in school with no names on. Lost property will be put out every few weeks and then will be removed at the end of the summer term.

3. Everdon

- Elm parents would like a meeting to discuss Everdon residential. PS explained that he is just waiting for confirmation on activities and can hold a meeting but thought a video might be



easier for working parents. He will make this and then if a meeting is needed, he will pencil one in.

- Questions were asked about refunds if children are ill especially with covid-19. PS explained in the past – yes- they would get a refund but he will check the current insurance and legislation.

4. Special weeks

- A question was asked about key events that happened before covid-19 including outdoor learning weeks, summer concerts, sports leader training and PATH time
- PS explained that parts of the outdoor learning weeks in the past would happen including going to Evenley Woods but that other outdoor activities would be planned within the curriculum across the year like Forest Schools. Other things wouldn't be possible in the future due to logistics etc
- PS explained that there are things in the pipeline for commonwealth games including a visitor and a different sports day that could include different events like Netball and kurling- PS to give more details in June.
- PS explained that there isn't as much uptake for instrument lessons to complete a summer concert but that singing will be done through different events and for the last term- including 150 year celebration. Children will be given the opportunity to perform with their instruments in achievement assembly in the last term. PS to discuss with peri-teachers on this.
- Sports Leaders training has happened last year by Zoom but PS will ask Ms England about next year.
- PATH time will be back and will be in future once a term working alongside the times you come in for parents evening. This is time where children can show their parents their work.
- It was commented that parents loved the art gallery we had a few years ago and would love something like that. PS said things would be planned in i.e. for the 150 year anniversary.

5. Homework and Seesaw

- PS asked on what the feedback was like on homework for this term. PS explained that he would evaluate at the end of term the uptake but felt that focusing just on the key concepts like reading, spelling and maths were the purpose of homework rather than other subjects to help children's understanding of an area through regular practice.
- Generally positive feedback on the new homework. Question was asked about spelling lists and timestable tests. PS explained that some research about spelling lists shown that they don't help children to remember so in school we learn through investigations and looking at patterns/rules which then children have time to practice at home. Unfortunately, children in Year 4 do a statutory test in this area so need practice on learning in this way. Also learning their timetables can support them in other areas of maths.
- Some positive feedback on the wellbeing booklet. PS was pleased this was being received well.
- Parents would love to see more of the learning on Seesaw. PS said it is a time thing but we do try to put key events like Maypole dancing etc. PS will discuss this with teachers.
- Comments were made about not seeing all the notifications as they have more than one child. PS explained if parents had the parent Seesaw App they could see all their child's accounts and he gave a letter out at parents evening. He will send it out again.

6. Reports

- A question was asked about mid-year reports and whether they were happening again. It was commented that parents liked the new annual report format. PS explained that internal data wasn't a driver for Ofsted and that PS decided to change the internal data to move away from 3 points progress in a year as children don't make steady progress like this. Children are now assessed whether they are working towards the national curriculum objectives for their year



and if not interventions are put in place. Parents should be finding this out in parents evenings and PS doesn't feel the time it takes to create these by teachers would make much sense for parents. PS is working on how sharing targets for parents to see what things children can work on- i.e. number bonds to 20 etc.

7. Certificates

- It was asked whether they could have a top 10 mathematician of the week as well as spelling PS would look into that. He was pleased lots of children do spelling shed but it does seem to be the same in the top 10. He was looking into Sumdog Spelling as they do something similar to Spelling Shed. It was commented that some parents don't want their children on devices all the time and wanted to use it for treats. PS understood this but rather than putting the focus on the parent, having 10 minutes on Sumdog/spelling shed can support children in their long term memory of the these concepts.
- Children are excited about whether they will win a prize but some children who work hard never win and parents wondered with HT tea could be reintroduced. PS explained he had done it but due to covid-19 he hadn't done it for a while. He agreed and will set one up for the last term.

8. Clubs

- It was commented about how grateful parents are for the range of extra-curricular clubs on offer at school. So many schools don't offer any or you had to pay for them all. It was commented that parents could maybe make a donation for these clubs if they could or get charged like after school club to help with costs. PS commented that in the past wrap-around made a loss but work this year has meant it hasn't. PS was pleased for the feedback on clubs and felt that the school wanted to help parents out by offering these clubs-some being free.

9. Football

- Some of the children particularly love playing football but don't feel they can play it much especially with the new goals. PS explained that they often the children take over the whole field as their in no boundary lines etc. They can knock into other children and have disagreements as there is no referee. PS has said that children can play it twice a week currently at break and lunch and that if it was running smoothly then it might be increased to more lunch-times

Meeting finished 9:20am

Minutes by PSmith