

## Parent/Carer Forum Minutes

<b>Date</b> 18 <sup>th</sup> January 2019	<b>Time</b> 9am
<b>Chair</b> Rebecca Crist	
<b>Apologies:</b> Lesley Hendricks, Louise Sutton, Harrison Alfred	

<u>Items discussed</u>
<p><b>1. Welcome</b> – Apologies noted. Welcome to a guest member Gemma Davies.</p>
<p><b>2. STAR Sessions</b> – The Stay and Read sessions; the children are enjoying sharing a book with their adult for this half hour. We have now had two sessions per year group and are having another this half term. We discussed how the sessions are viewed from parent/carers perspective. It was discussed and noted that the sessions are being very positively received. Could they be longer sessions? It was explained that we have time pressures of trying to have both year groups in the hour, as the hall is in use and the set up and take down also takes time. It was discussed that not all parents/carers could attend due to work commitments. We discussed that the days of the sessions have been on different days and times, to try and accommodate as many work commitments as possible. Also that another adult could come to be with the children ie grandparent, auntie, uncle etc. We discussed the new project which the school is starting; Accelerated Reader programme. Explanation was made of how SMA is trying to encourage reading and improve reading levels across the school.</p>
<p><b>3. Parent/Carer Courses</b> – We discussed the courses being offered and as to why take up for these are so low although the initial requests and interest is positive.</p> <p><b>Maths</b> course, was held in the Autumn term and initial interest was very promising, but the actual uptake of places on the course was very low. Issues were raised about the course provider and as to why follow up from them has not been what was promised. An email will be sent to ask for further information about the online issues.</p> <p><b>EAL</b> course began 15<sup>th</sup> January and we hope the initial interest translates into course numbers. This is a 6 week course to help parents/carers who are uncertain of the system in British schools and how to support their children.</p> <p>Following our discussions, a request to hold a STAR style of workshop for Maths was made, particularly for Y5/6 parents/carers. It was agreed that Miss King, the Maths co-ordinator, would be approached.</p> <p>We discussed options for times of courses and it was agreed to hold them in the morning after children had been dropped at school. It was felt that this would work best for most parents/carers.</p>
<p><b>4. Newsletters</b> - Half termly newsletters are now being posted on the website instead of the paper copies being sent home. This not only is an eco issue in saving paper, but also a response to parents/carers comments that they were not receiving paper copies which should have been brought home by their child. It was discussed and agreed that this new system of receiving newsletters is a good idea. A reassurance that there is availability of paper copies from the Office, for those who do not have access to online versions, was met with approval.</p>
<p><b>5. Litter Pick Ups</b> - We have held a couple of these Pick Ups on Friday mornings. The Year 6 pupils have been very keen in improving their environment and are eager to put on the gloves, hold the bags and eagerly scour the pavement with a pick up grabber stick, gathering up the rubbish in front of SMA and the side path up to the Nursery. The improvement has been noticeable and passer-bys are pleased to see our pupils taking pride in the neighbourhood. They have passed comment on how wonderful SMA pupils are to be</p>

doing the job!

Discussion about dog mess outside school and along by the Ambulance Station has resulted in an email to the Council asking them to clean it up. Hopefully this will be actioned soon! Dogs on yard were discussed and a reminder has been written in the January Newsletter. Our next Litter Pick Ups are Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January and Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February at 9.10am for about half an hour and we would welcome support. All gloves and pick up sticks are provided.

**Any Other Business** – Home School Agreement is being looked over and should be ready soon.

**Handwashing** Concern was raised about the children not being reminded to wash their hands/ use antibacterial gel, regularly before meal times. Assurances were made that this will be raised with staff so as to reduce illness and infections.

**Nit letters** Concern was raised about the possibility of a header on these letters, which could remind parents/carers about the 'Care of the Chemist' scheme which provide nit treatments for free. This is being followed up by the Office.

**Promoting Fortnite** Concern was raised about entertainers who come into school and seem to promote the Fortnite dances at discos. It was commented that this game is not suitable for our age range of children and it was felt that this information should be passed on.

**Zumba** Lesley Hendricks has asked if it is possible to hold a class in school for parents/carers and another for staff. The feasibility of this is being investigated.

**Date for diaries:** Next meeting will be **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2019.**

**Love Jasmine Day** will be **Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January**

**Litter Pick Ups:** **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January** and **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February** 9.10am for 30 mins.