

Headteacher: Elizabeth Ennew
Chair of Governors: Kerrie Courtier
Station Road, Clutton, BS39 7PZ
T. 01761 452510
E. office@cluttonschool.com
W. www.cluttonschool.com



Part of the Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership

Wednesday, 22 May 2019

REF: Parent Forum.

Dear Parent/Carer,

Thank you to the parents who attended our first Parent Forum meeting this morning. It was very useful to share ideas and visions for the future. We thought it would be helpful to feedback to all parents, as we recognise not all who wanted to be there could make it. There were a few common themes, arising from the recent Parent Survey, which were helpful discussions to see how we can improve what we do.

Homework:

Parents acknowledged that it is impossible to please everybody regarding both the amount and type of homework, even this working group had differing views. The common thought was that if the homework enriches children's learning and is valued by teachers as part of the learning process, then it is worthwhile. Feedback on Doodle Maths was positive, children are positive about the experience. However, parents suggested it would be good to add in a school celebration for children who regularly practise, alongside those who get the most stars. An action for the school is to feedback to Doodle Maths regarding the opportunities for children to revisit key concepts, alongside deepening their understanding.

Parents shared the schools' concern that there is a lot of homework when joining secondary school, with sanctions in place for non-completion, and that it is a duty of care to start preparing children for this in primary school, building on expectations year on year. Moving forward, in the teach meet at the start of the year, teachers will clarify expectations with parents for the year ahead. Parent's feedback that it was very helpful having the spelling lists for the whole term in advance, which were tested weekly in class. This will be implemented across the school.

Moving forward in September we will set up one individual homework book for each child in KS1 and KS2, which will include weekly spelling lists and, at three points over a year, collaborative and creative tasks. Miss Ennew will be working alongside teachers to develop the format for this ready for September.

Communication:

A discussion took place around the best forms of communication for all parents. Miss Ennew informed parents that Mrs Cowgill is taking responsibility for setting up Facebook/Twitter feeds to keep parents informed and celebrate pupil achievements. Parents felt it would be useful that any texts/emails are sent to both contacts, and Miss Ennew is already liaising with the school provider on this. The school prides itself on having an open door policy around parental engagement, and parents were pleased to know that they can request to see children's work as and when they would



like to do so. However, all recognised that teacher workload is increasing and therefore it is much better to arrange an appointment, through the school office, in advance.

Parents informed us that they would appreciate teachers/school staff contacting them directly if there are any causes for concern or need for intervention, rather than waiting for parent/teacher consultations. Miss Ennew will share this with teachers, asking them to email parents if they are unable to contact them face to face. We ask in return that parents respond to the email through the office account, and arrange an appointment at a convenient time.

Forthcoming events:

The school recognises that parents have busy working lives, but attending and supporting school events is seen as special. Therefore we will continue to give as much notice as possible for key events, with the proviso that sometimes dates need to change.

Themed days:

The forum raised the issue around Fathers' Friday, and expressed disappointment that this had been cancelled. It was acknowledged at the meeting that families come in all sorts of shapes and sizes, and that there will be houses where there may not be a male presence, and some where there won't be a female presence. In recognition of this, some suggestions were put in place that could support all concerned. For example, on Dad's Friday if a sole carer e.g. female decided that they wanted to attend this event, this would be seen and welcomed as an appropriate action. Similarly for Mother's Monday. Staff are sensitive to the needs of pupils, and where it is not possible for parents to attend, we will continue to ensure those children are included and supported in all activities. Our special person/OPAL/Forest days have been extremely well supported and received, and will continue next year.

To ensure we have a range of parent views, the next parent forum will be at 5:30 – 6.30pm on Tuesday 9th July – venue to be confirmed. It is anticipated that we will be collecting parent's views on the implementation of the new curriculum, and the skills, knowledge and values they would like their children to have when preparing for the next stage in their education.

It was recognised in the meeting that Clutton School has gone from strength to strength, and Kerrie commented that Clutton is a school of choice, where parents are happy to travel to engage in high quality education. The next steps in making sure children experience an outstanding education, is to engage all stakeholders, particularly parents, to form a clear and ambitious vision moving forward.

Kind Regards

Elizabeth Ennew (Head teacher) and Kerrie Courtier (Chair of Governors)



