

DINGLEWELL JUNIOR SCHOOL

Minutes of Parent forum meeting on Monday, 12th December 2016 at 2.15 p.m.

Present:

Paula & William Archard (Y3 parents)

Wioleta Rokosz (Y3 parent)

Geraldine Brogan (Head)

Sarah Baker (Pastoral Manager)

Helen Howe (Business Manager)

Gill Cytla (Retiring Business Manager)

Apologies: none

Geraldine welcomed everyone to the meeting.

- Paula asked about the letter home to parents re. homework so they knew what to expect and when. If parents know in advance, they can see opportunities to 'link-in' as a family to contribute to children's learning.
- This will go out early next term when topics change. Geraldine explained the school's aim to make topic-based homeworks more independent and less parent-led, although recent parent questionnaire replies contained no comment about too much homework.
- Paula asked if there was any news on the integration of the school calendar?
- James has been across to the infant school to view their calendar, which works well. James and Helen will be working on this after Christmas – at the moment, Outlook is used by Junior staff for day-to-day running appointments as well as for events for parents. For events for parents, the webcalendar is invited, but this does not always happen or work depending on how the original Outlook diary entry was made.

The Facebook page currently in operation by parents was discussed. There is no input from the school at the moment, but some primary schools are beginning to operate their own page. There are obviously pros and cons to be considered here. Some parents discuss matters on Facebook which are not raised with school staff at all. Staff are ready and very willing to help parents, and this is not ideal.

- Paula asked about the DJS Friends page of the website, could there be a contact number on there if you wanted to join the Friends? Also, perhaps there could be some information/Friends flyer to encourage parents to join.
- Gill agreed to seek the permission of a contact to publish on the Friends page.

The Friends recruitment flyer went out to parents in September and was on the website until a couple of weeks ago, when details of the Christmas Disco were posted. Gill will put it back on now too.

- Geraldine asked if any other days/times for Parent Forum meetings had been suggested. We have a parent rep. for Y4 who could do Fridays but not Mondays, and there has been a suggestion for evening meetings – but we are reluctant to make further calls on staff, who already give of their time ‘over and above’ for evening events/meetings.
- Everyone agreed to ask around, just before pick-up would seem to be the most logical time – perhaps as well as publishing dates, we could try to find out who is coming and publish this information too, so parents have points of contact to raise matters of interest/concern if they cannot attend themselves.
- William and Paula are going to the BETT show in London in January, which is on between 25th and 28th January. They have space in their car if anyone would like to join them.
- Geraldine will pass onto staff, with thanks.
- Paula passed on a huge thank you from parents for the lovely Christmas production, such great natural performances from the children were much appreciated.
- Geraldine will pass onto staff, with thanks.
- Geraldine said that the school was looking to expand the library with a fundraiser around the time of World Book Day, perhaps a Read-a-thon or similar.
- Everyone agreed to feedback any ideas for this.
- Paula asked whether community links may be able to help.
- We have a variety of community links, including St. Phillip & St. James Church, Hucclecote Library/Community Centre, local shops and businesses (mainly through contacts with parents), which may be interested in contributing. Helen is getting to know these, and Sarah is pursuing the idea of pastoral ‘drop-ins’ at the community centre coffee shop which may also be of interest to parents.

Geraldine thanked everyone for attending the meeting, which closed at 3 p.m.

