

BALLIFIELD PARENT FORUM MINUTES

Monday 2nd December 2.00-3.00pm in the meeting room.

- *Vegetarian lunch choices*

Parent raised the question as they are becoming more environmentally aware at home and part of this is eating less meat. Their child had been interested in the vegetarian option but was told by a staff member that you should only choose the vegetarian option if you really needed to. The parent appreciated that Taylor Shaw need to know numbers for dinner but felt that the child should be able to choose the vegetarian option if she wanted. She wondered if there could be a conversation with Taylor Shaw about this and that more children may want to choose this option as people are becoming more aware.

Mrs Smith explained how the schools relationship with Taylor Shaw worked and that there are meetings between school and the company to discuss such items and she would make sure that it is an agenda item at the next meeting. She will also clarify with staff that it is ok for children to choose the vegetarian option if they wish to do so.

- *Artsmark award*

A parent volunteers at Athelstan who have recently been awarded the mark and she felt that it had a positive impact on the children and the school. When speaking to her own child she had said that they do not do enough art in class, but she was aware that the new curriculum was more creative.

Mrs Smith explained that she and Mrs Roddis had recently attended a leaders briefing where the subject of the Artsmark was raised. She also explained that the Dimensions curriculum ensures there is more coverage of each subject and that due to the way the themes are organised some half terms may have more of an art focus than others, but there will be more art in the curriculum.

Mrs Smith also said that there has been some monitoring of the curriculum and this had shown that there was more coverage of all subjects and that children were getting more experience of all the different subjects. There was a discussion around the school priorities and how reading is our main focus this year and that the Artsmark has a budgetary cost which had not been factored in for this year but we could look at it for the 2020-21 academic year.

- *Parking outside of school*

This is a constant issue and one that the school have been dealing with for many years. Many of the difficulties are due to the position of the school. Mrs Smith explained that she receives several emails a week from residents complaining about parking and having their drives blocked. Staff try as much as possible to be outside but people do not tend to do it when we are there.

We have also spoken to PTA about buying some new bollards to put outside but there were some concerns that this was not the right thing to be spending money on. Parents have reported that they have heard people in the playground saying to their children we must be quick I've not parked well but had no choice, but parents believe people do have a choice as to where they park.

The biggest issue is the road becoming blocked and the addition of HGCSG parents that also do not always park well. A parent suggested that it might be an issue that school pupil council could look at as having the children involved might make parents take notice. Walk to school weeks and incentives have always worked well in the past and this could be something we could look at.

ACTION: Speak to school pupil council about doing some work on the issue, possibly with a link to HGCSG.

Introduce a reward/incentive system for walking to school with a possible link to house points.

Continue to forward all complaints to the police.

- *Diversity week*

Mrs Smith explained that after Christmas we are going to be holding a diversity week linked to our curriculum drivers. We would like parents and the community to be involved in a similar way to our REACH week. This could involve people coming in to speak to the children about food, festivals etc. Mrs Smith will do a similar letter to parents as went out for REACH week asking for volunteers. The aim is to look at the make-up of our school community and celebrate our differences and similarities. Ideally we would like to include things like traditional dress, food, hobbies, celebrations and how people live. This could be through assemblies or workshops. We would also like to include people with disabilities possibly linked to sports people and possible work with the EIS. A parent governor explained that she has some links to community groups in Darnall that may be able to offer some support.

A parent asked about different lifestyles people live and Mrs Smith explained that the RSE curriculum that was due to come in did include learning about different families but that Sheffield LA had advised to wait until further clarity and advice on the subject was available which is what all Sheffield schools are doing. Mrs Smith explained that it is important that we do this kind of learning as we have many different families at Ballifield.

- *AOB*

We discussed if there was any other business and a parent said that she was going to raise the issue of the breakfast club but the letter that had been sent out that had clarified what she wanted to know. Mrs Smith reiterated that we were not going to rush into a decision and that she will summarise the feedback we received from the online survey and send it out to parents. We will look at other models to see how they work but at the end of the day it has got to be right for Ballifield and our families. There may be some costs involved but we would keep it to the minimum.

The next meeting was discussed and the parent suggested that maybe first thing in the morning may be good as parents could stay after dropping children off. Another option might be later in the evening. We will send out the next date with the minutes.

Meeting closed at 2.45pm.



'A Family of Learning'

