Parent Partnership Minutes (13th November 2019)

Mr Doherty and Mrs McNutt hosted meeting with a number of parents in attendance.

Agenda

* SeeSaw
* Website
* Communication
* Homework
* Reading Scheme
* Any questions

Mr Doherty spoke about the use of SeeSaw in school as a tool for recording and evidencing what the children have been learning as well as how teachers are now using it as a tool to blog children’s work for parents to view on the website.

Mr Doherty showed parents the proposed new website and invited feedback. Initial feedback was positive with parents agreeing that it was much improved in its presentation and usability for parents. One parent asked about whether the new website complied with the required Accessibility compliance. Mr Doherty said that he would check this with the web hosts and make sure that it does. Another parent asked if it was possible for parents to download the calendar to their own devices. Mr Doherty again said he would consult the web hosts about this issue too.

Parents in attendance felt that communication presently was appropriate and they were well informed of school events and activities etc.

There were some questions over homework and whether this was consistent across year groups. Some parents spoke of how their children were able to select a number of homeworks from a grid that they could choose throughout the half term whereas others spoke of how their child’s homework was more prescriptive in that they were given weekly tasks to complete. Mr Doherty explained that after the trial of the grid method of homework in Year 2 and Year 5, it had been decided, following feedback, to use this approach throughout school. There was some licence given to teachers as to how they would implement that but Mr Doherty said that he would check this out and attempt to provide some greater consistency around this. Feedback on the spelling scheme was good and one parent expressed what a great motivator it was for her child. Mr Doherty showed parents where they could access information on the spelling scheme on the school website.

Mr Doherty explained that a new Reading scheme had been purchased for home and guided reading books and parents expressed the opinion that this was a welcome development. Mr Doherty asked for some patience in the roll out of the new scheme.

A parent asked about the daily mile and that her child had reported that this had not been happening on a regular basis. Other parents agreed with this and expressed the opinion that this was a valuable part of the children’s day and expressed the hope that this would be reintroduced on a more regular basis. Mr Doherty agreed and said that leaders in school would look at how we can ensure that this does happen on a more regular basis. Another parent asked about the screens in the playground and how these had helped with getting children to be active. Mr Doherty agreed that the screens had been under-utilised and again would look at how these can be used more. However another parent expressed the concern that children used it as a screen to watch rather than to get active.

Another parent asked about school photos and expressed her displeasure with the school photographs. Her two children had different backgrounds for their photographs and felt that they also did not give a very good likeness of their child. Mr Doherty said that they would look at alternative photographers if this was a general feeling amongst parents.

Mr Doherty and Mrs McNutt thanked those in attendance. Another Parent Partnership Meeting will be arranged for Spring 2.