

Parent Forum – 17th September 2019

Present:

Sharon Liversey – Acting Deputy Head

Laura Dutton – Teacher/SLT

Clare Cotton – Learning Mentor

Lucy Morris – Parent

Lisa Blundell – Parent

Niki Clegg – Parent

Fliss Dodd – Parent

Helen Adams – Parent

Laura Bowers – Parent

Adele Blamey – Parent

Lynn Chesters - Parent

Reading

KS1 and KS2 reading sheds are in the process of being filled with donated books. Purpose of the sheds is for children to choose a book on arrival at school and share/promote the love of reading with parents and peers. The borrowing of books is based on trust and children are expected to bring the book back to the shed when they have read it and swap it for another book. Children are to take ownership of the sheds and ensure they are tidy. A note will be placed in the newsletter when the sheds are 'open for business'.

Writing and Maths has previously been the focus at Woodlands and Reading has always been 'OK'. Last year we realised we need to focus on reading. In March, the Literacy Company came into school and trained all Teachers/HLTAs in delivering guided reading. From September, every week every child in key stage 2 and Year 2 will participate in 1.5 hours of reading. This will be done either through whole class reading or partner reading to engage the children. Classes will be split into four groups: two groups will be taught by the Class Teacher or TA. The session will be planned and linked to the curriculum. The other two groups will complete independent reading which will include answering questions on what they have read. The groups will rotate. Feedback from staff has been very positive.

Year 1 children will build up to the model and will start reading for 15 minutes, building up to 1 hr 15 mins max. Early Years will have 1:1 reads and story time. Phonics remains the driver in key stage 1 as well as continuing Read Write Inc. Louise Williams is now the lead for Phonics.

Some parents feel that they do not know enough about how a lesson looks, what sounds the children are working on, what colour books, what comes next etc. A parent workshop always takes place for key stage 1 however the workshops have not been well attended. Parent's spoke highly of the videos that have been published by Ms Carr and feel perhaps one could be done to explain what a typical lesson looks like.

Parents like the slips that are stuck into key stage 1 children's reading records detailing where their child is up to with phonics and reading and asked if something similar could be done to in key stage 2.

Sharon explained that the take home reading books in KS1, although levelled, are books for the children to share with parents for pleasure. Children's books are roughly levelled and the children will have access to a read write inc reading book that is appropriate to their current phonic/reading level. As children move into key stage 2, if a child is still accessing read write inc this will continue.

Some parents feel that they have filled in reading records consistently and have received no feedback/signature that a teacher has seen it. Appears to be inconsistent.

Laura spoke about reading targets in year 3/4. Every Friday, reading records are checked by a TA and if the child has read 3 times or more during that week they obtain a star that they can place on a chart. The more the child reads the higher they move the stars up the chart. Once the stars are at the top the children are able to choose to bake or to take part in a lovely activity. Parents felt this should be rolled out across the whole of key stage 2 as year 5/6 children do not currently appear to be acknowledged or rewarded.

Sharon discussed that each child is given 3 mastery targets in literacy such as including capital letters/full stops etc and parents need to be aware of the targets to support their children. It was agreed that Early Years/KS1 would include a weekly reading sheet linked to RWI phonics and a half termly mastery target sheet for the reading objectives being covered that term. KS2 would include half termly mastery targets.

Some parents questioned the value of Roald Dahl day and World Book Day when the children are asked to dress as their favourite book character. Laura shared an idea of rather than asking children to wear a costume, asking children to bring a white t shirt along with their favourite book and decorating the t shirt during the school day. Children can talk to parents prior to the day and come into school and discuss with their peers.

Laura encouraged all parents to expose their children to all reading material ie. comics, newspapers, leaflets, instructions etc and asked for donations of comics to be included in the reading sheds.

Parents like 'Spelling Shed' but sometimes struggle to understand the male voice who reads the spelling.

School lunches

Parents have expressed their disappointment at the new menu. It was reported that the pictures on the website do not match the item of food detailed.

New members

Request for new parents to join the parent forum be included in a future newsletter.

Agenda items for next meeting:

Behaviour Policy

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 12th November 2019 – 6-7pm – Woodlands Primary School