

Parent Forum – 15.02.23

Attendees:

- Sharon Liversey – Deputy Head
- Clare Cotton – Note taker
- Felicity Dodds
- Hannah Mather
- Jennifer Clark
- Laura Dutton – English Lead
- Fiona Walkington
- Rachel Simkins
- Charlene Chambers
- Jenny Edge

Reading

Mrs Dutton shared information in relation to Phonics. Mrs Williams was unable to attend - apologies given.

- Children generally end the Read Write Inc (RWI) Phonics programme in Year 2. Some children still access phonics in Years 3 and 4. All staff have been trained to deliver phonics to every year group in school.
- Need to streamline how phonics information is shared with parents. This will be done via the school website
- Any children who are on RWI programme are assessed every 6 weeks. Levels are indicated by colours. Want to let parents know that if their child is on purple – how do I know what they are working on and how can I help them to progress
- Previously stuck labels into reading records to share what the children are focussing on. Was not consistent due to some children's books being left at home when the stickers were placed in books
- Mrs Williams has regular phonics meetings with Early Years, Years 1 & 2 to assess children's levels
- Information on website will hopefully give you information on your child's levels for example, if you child is on yellow books you will be able to find out what your child is doing and what they need to do to progress to the next level
- Colours/levels will not be listed on the website in hierarchical order due to competitiveness and pressure on parents/child
- Parents are welcome to buy RWI resources but staff have a certain style in which they deliver the lessons and would ask parents to allow staff to teach the phonics and use any home bought resources to practice phonics. We would encourage all parents to read with the children by reading with them at home
- What happens when children leave RWI? They need next step that is not fully off the programme before they become free readers. Need to keep a close eye on comprehension. Links to spellings
- Lots of children in KS2 still accessing the programme. Done in a very sensitive way so that they do not know which level they are on
- Reading for pleasure – children to choose a book to enjoy at home. Ideal for bedtime reads
- As children enter KS2 – Pathways to Read – one session of formal writing – study one book. Information can be found on the school website under knowledge organisers – includes mastery targets. Parents are encouraged to ask children questions about what they have read/Inferences etc. What do you think that means? How do the characters feel?
- From Sept 2023, above information will be launched in phonics meetings to new starters
- Strive for five – we say 3 reads at home and should be acknowledged in classrooms. Move up reading reward chart over a half term to receive a reward. Parents did not feel children have strive for five bookmarks in KS1
- Parent shared issues in one class in Year 1 – only had one tick in reading records since September. Some parents have not filled in reading records due to them not thinking they are being looked at/actioned by Teachers.

Sports Days/PE kits

- Following sports day last year in Reception – Parents believed that the afternoon would run from 1.15pm – 3.00pm. Sports Day ended at 2.00pm, couldn't take their child/ren home and some parents had taken full afternoon off work. Agreed could delay the start time for afternoon sports day
- Morning sessions, again, some parents taken off full morning or bring the start time earlier as lots of hanging around for parents
- Parents asked is it best to have all sports days on one day? It was felt there would be overlaps that may impact on parents with children in different year groups

- Parents worried that children were not in the shade whilst waiting for their sports event. PTA to explore purchasing gazebos
- PE kits – a lot of parents have brought school PE kit recommendations but children are often wearing branded sports kit/character outfits (i.e. Minecraft/Xbox). School needs to tighten up on what children are wearing
- On set PE days, some children are reporting they have not taken part in PE and have been attending interventions. Explained that staff try to rotate the times that children access interventions. Interventions include – assessing children for RWI, follow up activities, handwriting, writing/spelling groups. Children should not be doing an intervention for the whole school year

Parents Evenings – remote and drop ins

- Pros and cons to face to face parents evening and online
- Response from parents – why is it still remote? Who decided as the parents would like in person? Could school do half remote, half in person? If it is due to Covid parents feel that is an unacceptable reason
- School to be mindful of managing staff member's time for face to face parents evening. Some staff find themselves in school well after 8pm due to parents not sticking to time slots
- Parents enjoyed the opportunity to look at children's books in corridor whilst waiting to see the Teacher. Drop ins were brought back to give parents the opportunity to come into school and look at their children's work
- Spring is now set up as online appointments. Can look at Autumn set up
- Some parents do not feel they concentrate as much when the meeting is
- Can parents be canvassed to give their preference to face to face or remote?

Communication regarding positive news

- Parents feel there needs to be more communication with a parent when a child has done well in a particular topic/work area, been good at playtime, completed RWI programme, polite/good manners etc
- School already celebrate children's successes with Ready Respectful Safe certificates, Hot choc Friday, certificates, postcards home etc
- Parent reported that for four months they were unaware that their child had come to the end of the phonics programme. Can an automated letter be sent out to include – Dear....your child has now completed the phonics programme this is what they will do now
- Parents asked about the pen licence – this is not promoted in school any more. It was scrapped due unfairness to left-handed children/those who struggle with fine motor skills. All children are issued with a pen from Year 4 to end of Year 6. Some children in Year 3 are able to use a pen in the December time of the year group they are in. This information will be included on the 'Welcome to Year 3 letter'
- Parents feel some Teachers use Twitter more frequently than others. Teachers find it quick and easy to upload photographs of children to Twitter. Parents find it hard when they move from looking at Tapestry to Twitter
- Parents raised how mixed classes participate with their year groups – harvest festival – Year 1's did it with Year 2's. Xmas crafts, went into Year 2 craft sessions, felt a little intimidated being with the Year 2's. School often take classes together as it is easier to cover classes and nice for the whole class to go together rather than split. Mixed classes are always reviewed each academic year

Any other business

- Parents feel attendance letters are not necessary to send to parents as parents are aware of the reasons their child is not in school. Feel like it is a waste of paper/staff time.
- Attendance is very important, Education Welfare Officers work closely with schools and have zero tolerance on low attendance. School has to send out letters - some parents have had one for 96% or below 90%. Parents are brought into school if attendance doesn't improve and meet with Sharon Liversey and Nicky Brown. We know children get sick in all schools. It is a national thing, not statutory until September but Woodlands are ahead of the game

- Whitby High School tell parents each week in their newsletter who has the best attendance. School have previously celebrated good attendance but it was felt it was unfair to children as it is a parent's responsibility to get their child to school
- Parents were asked to not encourage their children to lie about them going on holiday.
- If a child's attendance is 80% at the end of the school year, it amounts to 1 day missed every week over a whole year
- Newsletter – format recently changed – really long last week. Lots of adverts last week. Do parents read them? It's a good point of reference. Lots of different ways the information comes home. Parents still want to receive the whole newsletter but would find it useful to have the 'dates for your diary' on the website
- World Book Day – Children don't have to dress up. Parents like that
- Year 6 residential - Current Year 5's missed out in Year 2 and had the long day trip to Menai. Would be disappointed if they had a residential on site like the current Year 6's are having. School will be looking at next year's residential
- Parents asked if there are plans for March strike for classes that were not in school during previous strikes to attend school and be taught but Teachers who are not striking. No
- PTA will be asking for Easter Egg donations for Easter Egg bingo. Looking to hold a Crazy hair day – rather than own clothes day. Agreed parents are charged reasonable prices for Woodlands PTA events