

## Parent Forum – 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Staff in attendance: Mrs Bligh, Mrs de Moraville and Mrs Fletcher

Parent community in attendance: x 6 representatives

### **Homework:**

Although not the focus for this parent forum as it was discussed at the last meeting, Mrs Bligh used the opportunity to ask the group what the feeling was on homework now the current way of setting and returning homework had been in place since September 2024.

On the whole it was felt that the homework being set was the right amount and everyone understood what was needed and by when.

Feedback for moving forward:

It was asked if the days homework is set and required to be returned be more consistent across the school.

*Although the teachers try to do this, with different working patterns and release time this isn't always achievable. Some parents also commented that they prefer the return date to be different as it allows them to concentrate on one child at a time.*

Could feedback on TT rock stars be given?

Could teachers utilise TT rock stars more by setting the class challenges?

### **Attendance:**

This is still a priority for the school as attendance impacts on children's learning and outcomes. Attendance figures are scrutinised by the local authority and governors and will be a focus for Ofsted. Mrs Bligh explained that the government's recent announcement of increase in fines for unauthorised absence is expected to be implemented by all schools. So from August 2024, fines will be issued by the local authority after 10 sessions (5 days) of unauthorised absence in a rolling period of 10 school weeks. Fines are issued per child, per parent. The money does not come to the school – it goes to the local authority.

### **Trips:**

A question was sent in prior to the meeting to ask about school trips and what the school's policy was going to be for trips moving forward. It was recognised that a lot of the staff were new this year and this has impacted on the organisation of trips.

Mrs Bligh shared a list of all of the trips that have taken place – per class – for the year and what trips are still to happen. Some people still felt that this wasn't many trips.

It was discussed that lots of factors have to be considered for trips. Risk assessments, suitability, how and where it fits in the children's learning. And above all the costs of trips. Coach travel especially is very expensive and as a school we need to be mindful of asking parents to find this money. It was asked why children cannot be taken on the train to see attractions in London for example. Mrs Bligh explained that the risk associated with public transport needs to be considered very carefully before being chosen.

Moving forward and for the next academic year – the aim is for teachers to try to plan the trips for the academic year so all will be aware of what is coming up.

## School communications:

### Where do you go for information about the school – survey

| Location       | Often            | Sometimes  | Never |
|----------------|------------------|------------|-------|
| Parentmail     | 4                |            |       |
| Website        | 3                | 2          |       |
| Newsletter     | 4                |            |       |
| Class WhatsApp | 4                |            |       |
| School Office  |                  | 2          | 3     |
| Another Parent |                  |            | 1     |
| Other          | Tapestry (Acorn) | PTA Events | 1     |

The group was asked what is working well/not at the moment in terms of school communications.

The school has moved to including a bullet point list at the start of longer emails to explain the contents of the email to help parents identify what is essential to be read and what may not be applicable to them.

Mrs Bligh asked what peoples thoughts were on moving the weekly newsletter to be a fortnightly publication. Most were not in agreement of this and wished for the newsletter to stay as weekly. They were happy for it to be circulated on a different day of the week if that helped the pressure of it being sent on a Friday night.

Could class updates be moved to being on class pages? This raises accessibility and permissions and won't be consistent across the school.