

# Parent Forum

25/2/20

This was the first of the 'new format' meetings where representatives for each class were asked to put themselves forward. The decision to change to the new format came from dwindling numbers and a drive to recruit new attendees.

The agenda covered the following items:

- 1) Welcome and thank you.
- 2) How do we let all parent's know who the representative are and recruit even more?
- 3) What would be the best way to recruit a new Parent Governor?
- 4) Thoughts on two new flyers.
- 5) Recruitment onto Family Learning Courses to be held at school.
- 6) Feedback on 'Showcase Home Learning', children's participation in Parent's Consultation Meetings and Pride in Kidderminster Week.

1) Miss Crawley welcomed and thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. She explained that the group had had dwindling numbers and how pleased that there were more people who had put themselves forward.

2) We discussed how best to let the other parents know who the reps were. The idea being based on School Council where the parents could then voice ideas at the meetings through their rep if they were unable to attend themselves. It was decided that a poster in the classroom window should work and for those classes without a rep (Year 4 and 6) that a recruitment poster could go up instead. It was also decided that rather than photographs (!) we would write first names and linked children on the poster for clarity as some parents have differing surnames from their children.

**Action: Miss Crawley to produce posters and class teachers to display them in windows ASAP**

3) Miss Crawley explained that the Governing Body of the school was looking to recruit another Parent Governor. She explained that the process is a formal one run by the Central RSA Academy Trust and that she was worried that the formal nature of the paperwork could lead to nobody putting themselves forward. A number of questions were asked about what the role of the Governors is and what it might entail. It was decided that not enough was known about them by the parents

of the school and that before we asked people to sign up we needed to explain what the role was. A flyer of sorts could be strapped to the formal paperwork to grab people's interest, potentially under the title of 'We Need You!'.

**Action: Miss Crawley to ask the current Governing Body to create a flyer to increase the parent's knowledge of who the Governors are and what they do. This is then to be added to the formal paperwork when sent out.**

- 4) Miss Crawley circulated two flyers to be considered. The first is a Pupil Premium one advertising the benefits to the children/ parents if they are eligible. There was some confusion amongst the group as to the difference between Universal Infant Free School Meals, Free School Meals and Pupil Premium. This led us to believe that we need to do more to increase clarity across the whole parent body. It was decided though, that the flyer was a good start. The second was about support that can be accessed by parents locally, some through school but others separately. It was decided that this too could be quite a useful directory.

**Action: Flyers to be sent out in a timely manner as opposed to all at once.**

- 5) Miss Crawley explained about an upcoming opportunity for the school to work alongside the Family Learning Team at the County Council to provide adult learning at school. Initially we hope to put on a course on Wednesday afternoons in the school hall that will be run by a tutor, this can be bespoke to the school and could involve a wealth of skills. The first course will not have any exams so will be non-accredited. The idea being that parents spend an afternoon a week building up their skills set whilst socialising and remembering that there is more to life than parenting. We discussed the eligibility criteria which is rather different to Free School Meals. The courses will be run if we can recruit a minimum of 10 parents or members of the local community that will attend regularly. The course will be free if 7 of those 10 are eligible. To be eligible you PERSONALLY need to earn less than £16,000 per year. (This is the main difference as it usually depends on the household income.) We discussed the kinds of options that might be popular e.g. Crafts, gardening, cooking, IT skills and whether or not people attending would want their children involved. After much discussion it was decided that it would be best to set up an initial launch afternoon where people could come and meet the tutor and we could gauge interest. Based on this we hope to recruit the minimum number and be able to run free adult learning courses from school to help boost the whole community. The first course will run in the summer term 2020, the launch date set at Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April.

Action: Miss Crawley to advertise. Parent Forum Representatives to encourage anyone they can to attend the launch afternoon explaining the possible opportunities available.

- 6) All parents were positive about the showcase approach to home learning. They liked the opportunity the children got to practise their oracy skills to a wider, more unfamiliar audience. Miss Crawley explained that there will still be one formal presentation per year as this is an important skill to have too.  
Miss Crawley explained the idea behind the children playing a bigger part in their parent consultation meeting. This again gives the children the chance to use their growing oracy skills. Concern was raised that if something negative needed to be said that it is better that the children are not present. Miss Crawley agreed and said the children could be asked to sit outside for a moment if this was the case.

Action: Try it and listen to feedback from parents, children and teaching staff afterwards.