

Parent Forum

Wednesday 20th March 2019

Staff Present

Deborah Howard- Headteacher

Ellie Linton- Communications & Marketing Manager

Format

At the start of the forum we asked parents to write answers to the following questions on post-it notes and put them on big pieces of paper:

What do you want to share?

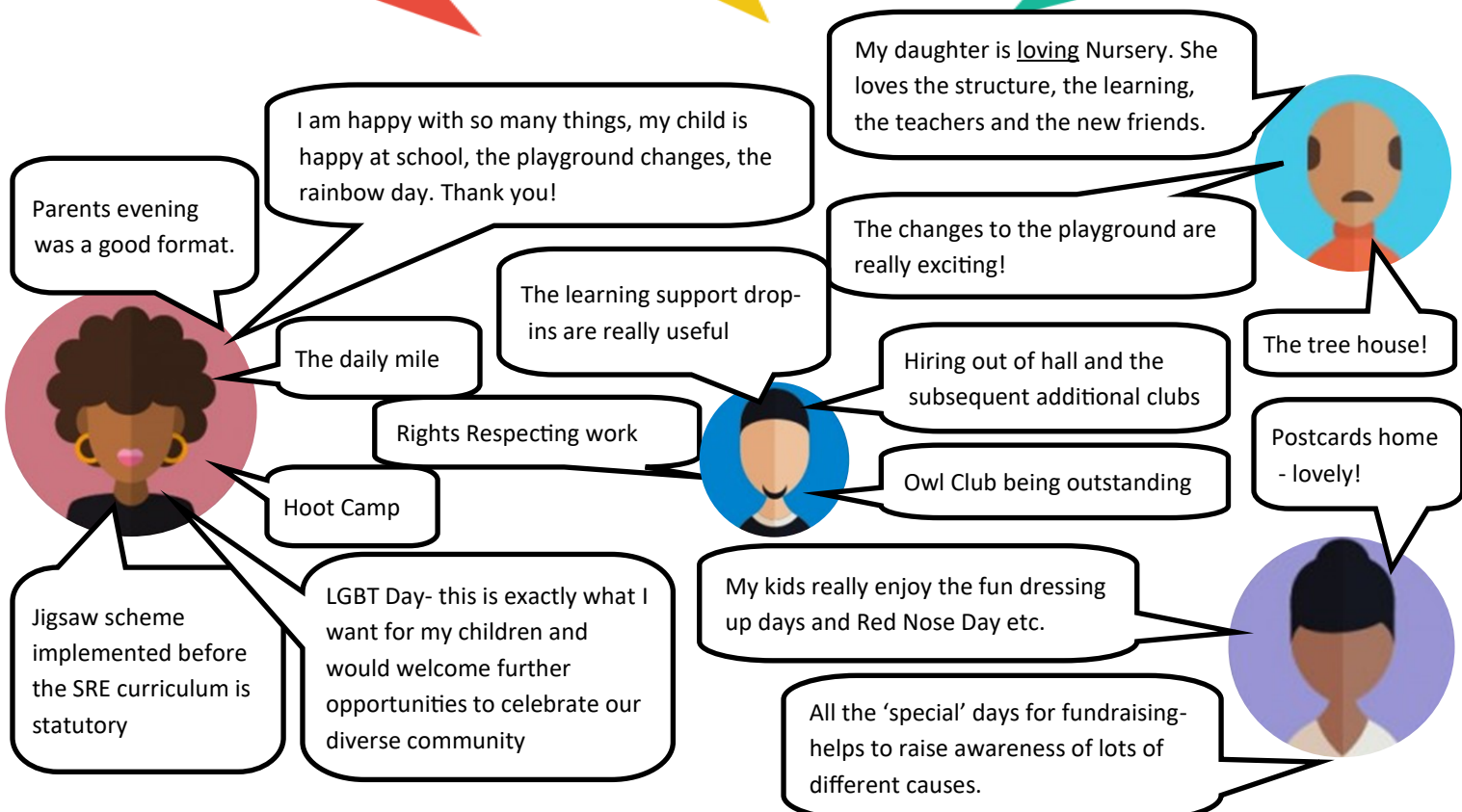
What do you want to ask/raise?

What's going well/highlights?

The answers that parents submitted were then used to structure the discussion at the forum. Some parents emailed their discussion points in advance as they were unable to attend the meeting. These were all raised and noted during the forum.

We also had a separate piece of paper called the 'carpark', which parents could add post-it notes to throughout the forum so that these items could be addressed at the end of the meeting.

What's going well/highlights



You said

"Litter around the school grounds- makes the environment look unloved."

"There seems to be an over-emphasis on 'healthy eating' without clearly explaining the rationale to parents or having a consultation with parents."

"The biscuits served as part of school dinners seem very big for the younger children- is it right that they have the same size as the children in Year 6?"

"My child often says that the milk is not good as it is warm."

"I've noticed that when the hall is required for assembly/xmas performances etc PE goes out the window. Could we plan more efficiently to avoid missing weeks of PE?"

"The small hall feels very unclean when we have the PTA Coffee Morning on a Friday."

We did

The caretakers now have a weekly meeting with the Business Manager and have added a litter pick of the grounds to their daily schedule. We have also spoken to the Lunchtime Team and asked them to regularly arrange a team of children to go round with the litter pickers at lunch. This will ensure that the issue is everyone's responsibility.

We've since held a working party on healthy snacks with both parents and children and discussed our findings with Manchester Healthy Schools. In order to work out the specific problems we have in school, we will be monitoring the issue over the summer term. Staff will then feed back and an action plan will be drawn up in September. The lead on the 'Fit for Learning' section of the School Improvement Plan is working with our Rights Respecting Ambassadors on this.

We are trialling serving a different biscuit size to children in Nursery, Reception and Year 1.

We are bringing in a new system for milk entirely that includes a new fridge so that there will be space for all milk to be refrigerated at once. The new system will also reduce waste. This is due to be in place by September.

Deborah Howard explained that she is in talks with the PE leads at the moment to see what can be done when the hall is in use to make sure children still get a PE lesson.

We have appointed a new member of kitchen staff whose job it is to do a thorough clean of the hall floor every day at the end of lunch.

You said

"The doors to the kitchenette in the small hall, which is used for the PTA Coffee Morning, are broken."

"General question about spellings- sometimes they are in my child's bag, and are they tested?"

"TT Rockstars- can the final end at 9am and not 10am? I also have concerns about screen time."

"Star of the Week- how is it awarded- does every child get it eventually? It is not always on the Weekly Newsletter. Sometimes it's the whole class."

"Are dojos and Star of the Week necessary? What are the benefits and do they work as motivating factors?"

We did

The issue has been reported to the caretaker and the door has now been fixed.

As of this half term we're trialling a weekly team spelling quiz to replace individual spelling tests in Years 1-6. The idea is that the children work in groups of three. One child is the speaker, one child is the writer and one child is the checker. They can swap roles for each new word. This approach promotes discussion, group learning, cooperation, increased knowledge and understanding of spelling rules and strategies learnt within spelling lessons that week. Each team must get all the spellings correct following collaboration. The teacher can give extra support to any groups finding things tricky, e.g by asking things like 'how do you know it's correct?' 'Does it look right?' etc. Words in the quiz will be words worked on throughout the week in spelling lessons and will follow the patterns or rules that have been taught. In addition to this, Deborah found that consistency across school was in place and how all year groups will be trialling the above approach.

We changed the timings of the competition so that the fixtures end before the start of the school day to make it fair for all classes taking part. We contacted the company that makes the game and unfortunately it's not possible to set a time limit on an account.

Deborah Howard explained that we try to ensure that each child gets Star of the Week at least once in a year. She also explained that she is planning to discuss this with the Rights Respecting Team and Behaviour Leads when we come to review the Behaviour Policy in the summer term. Staff and pupil voice will be gathered to see if the reward system is working for us.

You said

"People [in cars] stopping everywhere around the school in the morning (I know you are trying hard!)"

"The gutter is broken in Nursery, meaning the rain pours out of it. The problem has been fixed in the past but needs looking at again as it could also be causing damp."

"Could we introduce peer awards or self-rewards?"

"Year 4 have missed some music lessons on a Friday this year due to Network Choir."

"At the recent showcase there were only 3 pieces of artwork in my child's book- it would be good to see what they do in class. Can it be sent home if it isn't going on a display around school?"

"Could we put the staff board somewhere more prominent that all parents would get to see?"

"Children in Year 1 don't seem to have been allocated into houses (or haven't been told which house they are in)."

We did

Deborah Howard is going to ask the Rights Respecting Team if they can do some work with pupils from St Johns in a collaborative effort. Our Eco Team Lead, Richard Farrow, has been doing some air pollution monitoring around the school grounds, so we will share the data on this as soon as we have it. We're also planning a series of campaigns, including a temporary road closure for a day, in conjunction with Cllr Eve Holt and St John's Primary.

The issue was reported to the caretaker and has since been fixed by a professional team.

This idea will be taken to the Behaviour Policy review meeting later in the summer.

We will ensure that when we do the calendar for next academic year that the current Year 4 cohort do not have their carousel on a Friday afternoon, this will ensure the same thing doesn't happen to the same year group next year.

This has been passed to our Art Lead, Nicky Appleby, who has said that she will send artwork home to parents wherever possible.

Yes! We will be moving the staff board to the main foyer over the summer holidays.

The class lists showing which house each child is in has now been given to the Year 1 teachers to share with the children.