

## Parent Forum 4th May 2021

**Present:** Gillian Pyle (Head of School) Suzie Cowley, Gail Booker-Tyas & Jo Carter

**Apologies:** Naomi Ware & Sally Willox

### **Discussion point 1 – induction process for new children and families**

Last year we were in exceptional circumstances and we were unable to undertake the normal induction process. If we had to undertake a virtual induction again we thought that there were some areas that could be improved.

However, this year we are hoping to be able to invite parents into school for a welcome meeting and for the children to have visits to the class as well – as we have been able to do previously. We are waiting for final instruction for Devon County Council as to whether we are able to offer this and will let parents know as soon as we have been informed.

#### **Parent feedback:**

- Parents found it hard not having the usual meeting, induction process or the parental induction meeting, and not being allowed into the classroom, or the children having school visits. They feel because of this it has left some gaps in their knowledge of the school and feeling part of the school community.

The school did try to put some things into place - such as a welcome video, welcome zoom meetings with Miss Bowyer and Miss Pyle and all information was sent out via post such as the early years booklet, but we understand that this is not the same.

**Action:** School to contact the new families to welcome them to the school and explain we will be in contact with further information about induction.

- At the forum it was suggested that a 'parent buddy' system could be set up for each class, using existing parents as a 'go to' for advice or questions. Gail, Jo and Suzie are going to work on this together to let new parents know about this and how they can sign up – this is something that we can inform the parents about at the welcome meeting.
- It is also important that any new parents that have children join in other years groups are also welcomed. It was suggested that if we have a new pupil starting it would be lovely to put a welcome to them on Google Classroom (with parental permission)

**Action:** Parent forum volunteers to work on a paragraph about the parent buddy system with photos of the buddies for each class. This can be explained at the welcome meeting and parents can sign up at this meeting so it is set up in the summer before the start.

Parent forum volunteers to work on a FAQ information sheet also to go out at the parent welcome meeting.

A new parent toolkit has been suggested and we would welcome ideas on what this might look like and involve.

Parents found the video tour of the class helpful and it would be useful to include things like the rainbow wall or class incentives, such as star of the day in this to help understand how the classroom works.

**Action:**

Miss Pyle to speak to Miss Bowyer about undertaking a video this year. We hope to be able to hold a Beech class welcome meeting in the early part of September where these sorts of things can be explained.

**Prospective parents tab on the website**

- It would be nice to have some testimonials from parents across the school. We could put a plea out on our newsletter for this or the parent forum could also support.
- Upgrade on the video that was done last year if virtual tours are here to stay.

**Action:**

Plea for testimonials to go on the newsletter and then added to the website.

If virtual tours continue then the school will look at upgrading the video from last year.

**Discussion point 2 - Yr. 6 Leavers Service**

Miss Pyle explained that we are consulting with the parents and children about the Y6 leaver's service, especially the awarding of trophies and cups.

**Children's thoughts:**

They think the trophies/cups should continue but like the idea of everyone being recognised with a personal certificate from their time at the school.

**Parental thoughts:**

- Last year's parents wanted to say how grateful they were that we were able to put together a leavers service for the children, which we held in the school playground.
- A refresh on the year 6 awards/trophies well worth a thought, it's a really emotional time for them and they definitely feel a bit glum at not receiving a trophy! It would be lovely to recognise the qualities of all the children leaving.

**A.O.B:**

**Are school photos happening this year?**

Yes this has been booked and a date will go out in the newsletter this week.

**Cycling Proficiency – is this going to be happening?**

Yes the dates set for year 5 have been confirmed and will go ahead the week beginning 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

**Volunteers** – understand not allowed in school at present but it might be helpful to ask for volunteers for particular skills such as helping in the library, wildlife garden, reading etc. when volunteers allowed back in school it would be good to promote this to bring everyone back together again. **Next meeting:** 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021 at 11.00am.