

Parent Focus Group – November 15th @ 9.00 am – Federation House

Present:

Anthony Orlik (AO)

Deborah Lamont

David Gozho

Carla Roque

Shawkat Chowdhury

Erika Beech

Lynne Baker – Minutes

	AO explained the purpose of the Parent Focus Group.	
Notes from last meeting	<p>Electronic payment is still being investigated. Looking at Blue Coat Academy method.</p> <p>Y2 timetable for end of Key Stage Assessment not appropriate as it is done by teacher assessment. Parents are advised that assessments will be taking place.</p> <p>Lunch choices for last class in have improved. AO will email caterers to ensure this is maintained.</p> <p>It was suggested that a representative from Blue Coat Academy comes to talk to parents about how Key Stage 2 attainment results are used as children move into secondary school.</p> <p>Singapore Maths has been very successful with good results. The school does not just use Singapore Maths but also other resources and teaching methods for maths. The aim is to provide a high quality maths curriculum and teaching.</p> <p>AO thanked the group for the success of the summer reading challenge which had been based on a suggestion from the group.</p>	AO
AOB	<p>Year 5 teacher not with her class all the time as teaching swimming.</p> <p>Parent asked for information on topics. AO explained that the school website has detailed curriculum information and so do the school planners.</p> <p>Swimming is going well with school staff teaching as the school no longer use expensive outside providers. The school pool is becoming very expensive to maintain and a new location may be sought for years 3 &4. Years 5 & 6 use the Queen Mary pool.</p>	AO to investigate

	<p>A leaflet was handed to Reception children about an activity in the summer which was not applicable to that year group and also was cancelled. AO explained that the school support local community projects but this leaflet should not have gone out to Reception as it was not a service available to that age group.</p> <p>Homework – some parents thought there was not enough homework for children and it should be given every day. AO said that children should have spelling or grammar weekly and also My Maths homework is set weekly. There are also termly projects. Homework is a subject that commands very different views across the parent body. The schools try to have a sensible balance.</p> <p>AO mentioned that there are 4 Parent/Governor positions available. The Governors perform a very important function at the Federation. Deborah Lamont said it would be good if the Governors could attend more PTA functions so that parents could be familiar with who they are.</p> <p>AO also asked about the parent behaviour group. It was reported that it was very useful but too short. More are planned over the year.</p> <p>School trips are very expensive especially when compared to Pupil Premium discounted cost. AO explained that costs are kept as low as possible but costs have to be covered.</p> <p>The Christmas Bazaar was discussed briefly and donations requested, especially for food.</p>	
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