



Peacehaven Heights Parents Forum

23.9.2020

On Microsoft Teams, 7pm.

Wendy Wiltshire (WW) welcomed everyone to the forum.

Housekeeping agreed for online meetings.

WW explained her role in the school and welcomed parents and IEB members, Claire Roberts (CR) and Jon Taylor (JT). Rob Fitzwarine-Smith (RFS) is here as PSHE lead.

Parents introduced themselves.

WW reminded parents of the leaflet sent out to share the focus. We value parents' ideas and are keen to work together.

We have an agenda and will stick to the hour to ensure they are effective.

Ground rules:

- No individual children, parents or staff members named. If there are any concerns, then take these up with leadership. These meetings are about school improvement.
- Maintain confidentiality in these meetings if there is anything sensitive.
- Propose no children in the room if possible, to prevent things being taken out of context.
- Mobile phones on silent.
- Use the chat function or raise hand with questions.
- Any questions we can't answer tonight we will return to and add to the minutes which will be on the website.

RFS, as RHSE lead, explained the support for children on their return to school. The school uses a scheme called Jigsaw. The first unit is about the places children have in their world. What has changed? What is different? Great to have children back and to talk and share feelings. Children have settled well. All staff, nationally, were worried about having all children back. It's been brilliant, children have adapted to new routines. We have focussed on our core values – compassion, resilience, courage and respect.

WW seen children really happy to be in school. Thank you, parents, for supporting your children during lockdown and supporting the return to full opening.

WW presented a PowerPoint to show progress towards priorities since Ofsted.

1.1 is about subject leader development to have an impact on pupil progress.

2.1 quality of education about curriculum development. This reflects the focus of my role since April. Ofsted recognised we had made a start but had much more to do. We have looked at the whole school curriculum and put the intent on the school website. Subject leaders have developed a whole school progression document and we have looked at the sequencing to prevent duplication and ensure National Curriculum coverage. We are doing a series of tests this week to undertake gap analysis to find what we need to do now for your children. All parents should have received their knowledge organisers for history and geography.

Q – parents wouldn't know this week is an assessment week. It would be helpful to let parents know.

A – WW agreed.

Q – I haven't received my knowledge organiser.

A – WW explained that it was sent out with curriculum newsletters.

WW explained knowledge organisers. Using them to give children the bigger picture of their learning and then use in class to help retrieve knowledge. Along with the curriculum maps then this can then support progression.

Q – were the knowledge organisers sent out electronically?

A – yes, but we could send out paper copies to put on the fridge if useful?

Q – yes please.

Knowledge organisers outlines the knowledge that contributes to the overall learning.

It's about helping knowledge 'stick'. They are all on the website. Really helpful as every child will have different experiences at home.

We have done a lot to support reading for pleasure. Working with Springhill Primary School in Southampton as part of DFE Hub on reading. We've undertaken a lot of CPD on reading. Vocabulary has been key here – this will be on the knowledge organisers. Lots of CPD on SEND and quality first teaching. We have carried on working throughout lockdown. Our most recent published results were not good enough (2018-19).

Q – is the library open?

A – no due to Covid but children can bring books home.

RFS – class reading books are going home this week for the first time.

WW – and when books come back they go into isolation.

WW asked for feedback as to whether parents have areas to raise and would like parents to feed into the agenda.

A parent commented that this medium is great as she can access. How can the line of communication be opened up given access to teachers is limited?

Q - we need to know what we should be doing at home. We need to know what homework is expected. I need to know how to support him.

A – there was a section on homework expectations on the newsletter last week. There are curriculum meetings.

Q – I was unable to attend.

A – the teacher will get in touch and curriculum meeting powerpoints will be added to the website.

Q – appreciate that teachers are busy and I can't expect individual attention but I do miss things.

A parent who is a teacher in another school explained how they share information with parents through video clips, newsletters and an actual booklet with key learning aides.

WW – would this be helpful?

Q – during lockdown it was helpful to have links to other resources. The knowledge organisers will help but in the event of another lockdown we need more resources e.g. BBC Bitesize.

Q – we don't want to overdo the paper, but I realise some people don't have access to the technology.

Q – I don't want my child looking at screens for all their work.

Q – could parents be invited to say whether they want paper or e-copies?

JT explained that schools are working on remote learning in case of another lockdown. We need to work with parents to ensure the best support is in place before any further remote learning opportunities.

RFS explained that pick up time is very different currently. Phone calls can be arranged or it might be possible to arrange a chat on the field after school. We are setting up arrangements for online learning, we have been having training on Teams. We have looked at how to set and mark work.

Q – need to consider families with more than one child who may need the facilities at the same time.

CR explained that online learning may need to happen in the event of bubbles needing to self-isolate. Schools are preparing to do that switch from face to face to online.

Q – we may need more defined requirements for homework. With a six-month loss in education we really need to support our children.

Q – how can parents support with the outcomes of the assessment – could we know any gaps sooner rather than later?

Q – this is a piece missing, I don't know how to support my child at home.

Q – I hadn't looked at the website, this needs pushing. Perhaps through parent mail or the newsletter.

Q – it would be useful to know this is assessment week. For parents of SEND children this would be helpful. I understand that children are finishing homework in breaktime. Is this policy.

A – WW will follow up and come back to you on an individual basis.

Q – could the frequency of these meetings be increased as we need more information about the future leadership and we need to know the stability of leadership. We don't want to see the school in limbo following the progress made. Parents need to know how they can help their children more.

A – JT will ensure his e-mail address is well published, please e-mail and ask the question directly so these can be answered as they arise. I could look to publish a Q&A response on the website.

A – CR proposed that there could be two different meetings – the IEB meeting with parents and parent forums have two different focuses.

Q – the IEB need to communicate about the leadership, parents are rightly concerned. We hear staff are upset and will all leave if the school academises.

A – JT I will publicise my e-mail address and provide a direct Q&A response.

Q – and what is happening about the teaching of swimming? Could this be published. We don't have the answers. We need you to be more transparent.

Other questions:

Q – when is the school going to get a permanent headteacher?

JT there will be a focus on recruitment at our next IEB meeting in October.

Any further questions, please do e-mail me and we will respond.

And suggestions for agenda items for the next parent forum. We could invite the maths lead or the phonics lead if you would like these as agenda items.

A discussion ensued about how to get more parents involved and Year 6 parent engagement.

Thank you for giving up your time this evening. Please do e-mail any questions to the office and someone will respond.

The meeting closed at 8:03pm.