

**ST. EDMUND CAMPION
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
A VOLUNTARY ACADEMY**



**Parent Forum Minutes
23rd November 2015**

Notes from Parent Forum meeting on Monday 23rd November 2015

Present: Mrs Blake, Mrs Byrne, Mrs Waite, Ms Welsh, Mr Dowding, Mrs Foody, Mrs Sharkey, Mr Hoban, Mrs Coppinger, Mrs Biondi and Mrs Coulam.

Apologies: Mrs Richards and Mr Silcock.

Mrs Blake opened the meeting with a prayer. Notes from the previous meeting were shared. Mrs Blake confirmed that Miss Dawson is still awaiting confirmation of a date for E safety meeting for parents which will take place in the spring term. Also Mrs Byrne and Mrs Blake agreed to check if the Parent Forum notes were available on the school website for all parents to read. Members of the parent forum agreed to set a date for agreeing to notes before they were published on the Website. Mrs Blake to set the date when she forwards the notes out to members.

New membership

There are now 14 members of the parent forum representing all year groups across the school. Two new members joined at this meeting – Mrs Biondi and Mr Hoban. Also there will be two additional parents attending in the spring term – Mrs Brown and Mrs Setchfield

Accelerated reading

There was a concern raised relating to appropriate subjects and topics across the lower bandings. There was a consensus that the choice appeared mismatched to the maturity of the reader. It was explained that staff are constantly reviewing books across the scheme but there is less choice for the children across the lower bands. It was suggested that a book list was sent out to parents and unwanted books could be donated to school for the library.

Mrs Byrne explained that the children carry out an individual assessment in the ICT suite where they answer a variety of questions which will then calculate a reading band based on their reading age. When the children have finished reading their book they must complete an online comprehension quiz. When the children have achieved 100% in three comprehensions they can move higher up their allocated band. Each child will complete an online assessment each half term which will then generate an up to date reading band taking all the elements into account,

TA teaching in year 5

Mrs Blake explained that last week Mr Jukes was on a NQT course and Mrs McGowan was working in the class for part of the day. She further clarified that teachers will always plan the work for the TA to carry out and that they also know the children's needs better than a supply teacher. It was also mentioned that Miss Cololuca does cover some classes and although she is employed as a TA she does have an education degree.

Sickness absence letters

Parents of Sixty eight pupils received a letter as their child's attendance was below 96% for last half term. This is in line with Trust policy and also with the Government's target for attendance. Mrs Blake explained that she knew the reasons why some pupil's attendance was less than 96% and explained this to the parents personally but also has to follow trust procedure. As this was the first time it had happened in our school parents were upset and felt there should be some discretion with the letter rather than sending a generic letter to all parents. If children were on an agreed reduced timetable it was felt 96% attendance was an unfair target as it was unachievable Mrs Blake will raise

this concern at the next SNCAT meeting. Mrs Blake shared the idea of presenting children with 100% attendance each term with a pencil.

AOB

Literacy and numeracy

Mrs Blake discussed findings from the Sutton Trust – ‘setting is not beneficial for children at either end’ as this enables all children to access high order skills. Some parents commented that their children are happier staying with their class teacher for the whole day. This structure will also give the teachers the opportunity to mop up any misconceptions throughout the day.

Soup for packed lunch

As the weather is getting colder some parents would like their children to have a flask of soup at lunchtime. Unfortunately due to the number of children in the hall at lunch this cannot be approved due to scolding and glass flasks breaking.

Celebrating achievements.

There will be an opportunity during Achievement assembly on a Friday for staff to share outstanding achievements out of school with their peers. Parents can email the office / class teachers to share this news. A copy of the writing from class teachers which is read out will also be sent home with the child concerned as a keepsake.

Albert Hall

Year 6 will participate in the academy trust concert in December. There will be 100 tickets available – 1 per family and the remainder will be first come first served!

SNCAT Academy trust

A request for letters sent from the trust to go out on parent mail instead of hard copies as some parents do not get to see them. Also a request that the minutes from trust meetings are available on our school website as well as the SNCAT website.

Next meeting – Monday 1st February at 7pm.