

Parents Forum Feedback

Thank you for everyone who came to the Parents' Forum at the end of last term. I hope it was an opportunity for you to share any concerns you have with me and the governors and to hear our plans for the future of the school into 2015-16.

Curriculum Development 2015-16

- " **Literacy** – Continue to embed Talk 4 Writing, Power Of Reading, Developing speech and Language- Story Tellers.
- " **Maths** – Shanghai Maths (Mastery Curriculum). National research has focused on adopting Chinese techniques to support mathematical educational development.
- " **Science** – Developing opportunities for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM); working closely with Chailey Secondary School, Cumnor House.
- " **Computing** – Embed/ develop coding curriculum creatively, introduce a code club.
- " **History /Geography** – Ensuring key geographical / Historical skills are taught progressively with planned first hand experiences.
- " **RE**- Developing first hand experiences of all world faiths; continue with embedding values culture.
- " **MFL** – French, continued weekly video conferencing San Vallery En Caux. Develop written French in work books at Key Stage 2.
- " **PE/ Sport**- Working closely with high quality providers, Cumnor House, Sussex Cricket Club, Hockey, Tennis.
- " **Music / The Arts** – Increase uptake of children learning musical instruments, choir, develop music curriculum. At least 1 whole school performance a year.
- " **Assessment** - Changes to how children are assessed. From September children will not be given an assessment level. There will be a greater emphasis on deeper learning opportunities. Children will either be assessed as working towards year group expectation, at expectation or mastery standard for the particular year group.

School Development 2015-16

Learning Behaviours

- " Developing a learning culture of Confidence/ Resilience/ Achievement / Growth Mindset. We will be continuing to focus on developing the children's' learning behaviours. We will be focusing a 'Growth Mindset' approach; teaching the children that intelligence can be learned! Expect to hear lots more about this!

(Intelligence and 'smartness' can be learned and the brain can grow from exercise)

Greater Parental Engagement / Communication

- " Parental Engagement –Working Better Together (Governors, PTA, School, Home)
(Development of Parent workshops / cafes, Governor drop in /Visibility, community days)

I would like to develop a learning café approach to parental engagement where parents can drop in and learn techniques to support the children at home in a really friendly informal way.

Learning Development and Research

“ Developing the school into a centre of learning development.

(*Working strategically with Newick Teaching School, Cumnor House, Chailey Secondary School, Brighton University, University Of Sussex.*)

Next year I believe we will have an incredibly strong teaching team. We will also have a Schools Direct student from Sussex University working with an outstanding teacher and a number of final year students from Brighton and Sussex University.

Building / Site Development

“ Other challenges – (Building / playground development, Outdoor learning / gardening opportunities.

I have had to wait an incredibly long time to develop the outside area at school. The reason for this has been due to remedial building work that needs to be carried out. This will now start on the first day of the Summer holidays. During this time the school will have the roof replaced. Once this work is complete we will be able to focus our attention on improving the playground / outside space.

(Planned major building works Summer 2015)

Other concerns / Issues raised:

Breakfast Club – The School trialled a Breakfast Club a number of years ago but due to lack of interest / need it was not continued. If you or your family would benefit from/ have need for a Breakfast Club facility please speak to me. If there was enough interest it is something I would consider for the future.

Water Fountain for Playground – In the Summer I had a new water fountain fitted in the school corridor. At any point in the school day; especially break and lunchtimes children have access to this.

Homework - A number of parents raised their concerns about the amount / type of homework children received. **There is an expectation that children read their reading book and learn spellings each week. Other homework activities are set by class teachers; if extra homework activities are not completed children will not be penalised.** These homework activities are curriculum enrichment and intended to develop further thought and interest in the topic being studied within class. Obviously if children spend time completing these activities they will be rewarded for their effort and they will be shared with others within the class.

I hope this gives you an idea for the school development plans for the next academic year.

Best Wishes

Mr S James
Head Teacher