

## Report on Parents Forum Meeting

1<sup>st</sup> March 2017

Our thirteenth annual Parents Forum provided an opportunity for a representative group of parents to meet with the school's Senior Leadership Team and Governors to exchange views and ideas on the development of the school as well as assess its strengths.

**The school's Senior Management team are:-**

Mr Chris Wilson	Head Teacher
Mrs Sue Clark	Deputy Head
Mrs Charlotte Mulhall	Assistant Head

'Governor observers' were Mrs Claire Stratford. Also present were Rebecca Spencer (Lead Practitioner for Foundation Stage).

The parents invited, were selected from each class in the school based on a randomly chosen ranking of pupils from the roll for each class - eight sets of parents from each class - thereby ensuring a true statistical sample of the school's parents and representing around 30% of the school roll.

The group was first asked: "**What does the school do well?**"

- Integration of new families into the school is smooth and welcoming. There is a positive ethos which supports and promotes a collaborative partnership between home and school.
- Staff are also very supportive, especially when it comes to family crisis.
- Staff are friendly and approachable, conversations with staff are easy.
- The office staff are lovely, and a great strength of the school.
- The Before and After School Club is a great success. Children attending are very happy and are enjoying the activities put on by the staff. Staff are very supportive when it comes to activities, especially reading and supporting children with the curriculum.
- The range of extra-curricular clubs is very good. The staff were praised for giving up their own time for these clubs. The clubs are inclusive, and staff are very accommodating, especially if numbers are high. A special thanks to Mrs Linda Bennett for organising the clubs.
- Sports days are very good.
- The SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) support is extremely good. The SEND team always go 'above and beyond' supporting families.
- Incidents within the school are handled in a tactful and effective manner.
- Parents are happy with the classes who are trialling the new homework formats (Classes 5B and 5/6B). Children seem to be given much more independence to manage their own time.
- The introduction of the online maths skill learning platform 'Mathletics' has been very good.
- Communication is very good.



- Parentmail is very useful. It is good that the office staff labels each Parentmail with which classes / year group the notice is aimed for.
- Reward systems in school are very effective. Children respond well to target stickers, house points and events.
- Lunchtime staff checking and monitoring whether children have eaten their hot lunch or pack up. Making children bring their leftovers home allows parents to monitor what their child is eating. Parents like this set up.
- Not allowing parents onto the playgrounds is a great deal easier and safer than in other schools.
- The school environment and facilities are excellent. The buildings are kept tidy and clean.
- Tapestry, the online learning journal, used in Foundation Stage is excellent.

For the second part of the session the group were asked: "**What can the school do better?**"

- More feedback from our peripatetic music teachers would be gratefully received. This is dependant however upon the individual music teacher.
- On occasions, children who are having hot lunches have to queue for their meals for a considerable time. Could the sittings be more staggered? This would enable children who have hot meals to have a longer time outside playing. Packed lunches are allowed to eat outside during the summer; however, hot lunches cannot, is this unfair?
- Could the school consider whether sandwiches could be offered as an alternative to hot dinner provision? Children during the summer are not as keen on hot dinners, with it being warmer.
- Homework - Being kept in at playtimes if children do not complete homework / read at home (Key Stage 2). Children need 'downtime' and less homework. Consistency with homework - especially over the holidays, particularly in similar aged year groups. Some classes have homework in half terms others, and others do not.
- Could school create a homework club at playtime?
- Could Parentmail messages contain greater details in the messages e.g. timings/specifcics.
- Blue gates to playgrounds be opened promptly at 08.45 am, and classes sent out at the end of the day on time.
- Involve parents in assemblies when a child receives an award or their child is performing. Could classes do their own assemblies?
- Could Tapestry (Foundation Stages online Journal) be extended to Year 1 or throughout school.

*The school staff and governors present would like to thank all the parents who attended the forum for their contributions.*

Kind regards,

Mr Chris Wilson  
Headteacher  
Cranwell Primary School