PARENT COUNCIL

Initial Meeting / Introduction : Monday 2 November

INTRODUCTION

Excellent attendance at the first initial meeting. This meeting was set up to give more information and background on the group and to discuss peoples’ views on what they would like the group to be focusing on, the key actions and the hopes and outcomes of the group.

The general consensus was people wanted a ‘voice’. To be able to support and potentially change and influence our children’s education, safety and well being. The school are very keen to involve parents in all aspects of school improvements and forging strong partnerships between home and school.

COMMUNICATION

Communication was seen to be a key factor and various methods of communication were discussed.

School Handbook

School website

Social media tools.

All of the above were seen to be excellent methods of communication (resources in terms of time to keep everything updated is a fundamental issue). The primary 2 (initially primary 1) parents had set up a face book to discuss general updates on school and have found it very helpful. This approach would be explored further. The importance of the school website and up to date information was discussed. The handbooks for school and nursery will be looked at in detail and the group will feed their input into both. Summary sheets of key information would be pulled together to make it easier to access quickly. This will be discussed at the next meeting. A survey to be sent out to all parents enquiring about their thoughts on communication was discussed briefly. This will be discussed at future meetings.

SAFETY

Safety regarding walkways to school, lighting, car parking etc. was proven to be a key issue. Mrs Mathers explained this is being discussed with the local authority and further clarification will be provided.

GROUPS / MEETINGS

There was a discussion around how parents and teachers meet each other and ideas were explored around ‘ meet the teacher’ at the beginning of sessions, curriculum evenings and open days. The discussion focussed on opportunities for parents to attend the school, look around classrooms and have a more general idea of what is being taught at school. The importance of homework and parents interaction with their children was discussed. There was a general feeling that parents needed more information on the homework requirements and ‘how to teach’ their children in ways that fitted with the school approach. Again, these topics need to be discussed further at future meetings. The survey to parents would give more information on how these events could be carried out.

The school were looking for volunteers both to attend the staff working group on sharing learning with parents and the pupils’ Healthy Living Group. Names and e-mail addresses were provided.

The staff working groupare looking at ways that parents can support and share learning with their children. They are exploring making small clips for the website showing basic teaching methods with hints and tips.

Healthy Living / Healthy Life Group are a pupil grouplooking at whole aspect of healthy living, healthy lifestyles. They are auditing practice in school and creating an action plan to seek a Green Flag as an eco friendly school. .

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Monday 30 November at 7pm in Mauricewood Primary School. Any updates will be provided electronically on our website if attendance is not possible. All parents/ carers are very welcome to join us.