Parents’ Forum Meeting
Thursday 21 January 2016

Present:
Julie Plant
Toni Shadforth
Helen Wallace (Minutes)

Apologies:
Claire Parmley

Matters Arising from Minutes

Vision
Helen Wallace reported the success of sharing the vision through assemblies and classroom displays. The level of children’s understanding is very pleasing.

SRE Policy
Following discussion with parents at the last Parents’ Forum it has been decided to review the approach taken to homosexuality and possibly introduce this to all Key Stage 2 children whatever their personal family experience. Resources are being purchased to review how to do this most appropriately so that staff can be supported in this work.
Governors have agreed to delay the approval of the policy so as to ensure the most effective policy at the point of approval.

Reports
Parents were very happy with the cross curricular section understanding that they may not get a direct comment about every subject.
Parents were confident that the new format would give them a complete picture of their child. Parents were pleased with the changes. They particularly liked the aspect of reporting on effort.

Homework
Parents like the Project homework given in Year 2 – year 4. They appreciate the advice given to children for the homework in the information letter. There was some concern that not all children do the homework. Helen Wallace talked about the support the school can give in these circumstances.
Talk homework is seen as a consolidating activity for the children. Parents’ appreciate the website suggestion to support further learning/practice.
Parents prefer the project homework to have term days and holiday days to give families the flexibility of when to complete the work. Parents feel it is more accessible to children if the
project homework is of the same theme as the topics being covered in school – being run concurrently rather than being given as homework before being covered in school.

Parents asked that staff be very clear in their information. Being asked for a project of an ‘appropriate length’ is not always measurable by parents.

**PE in cold weather**

Helen Wallace confirmed that children will do outside PE in cold weather just in shorts but staff will be mindful of how cold children are becoming. Children are encouraged to wear jogging bottoms. A note has gone out on the Newsletter this week to that effect.

**PE outside equipment**

Is it necessary for all classes? School will endeavour to make it clear to parents which PE kit is necessary for each year group termly so that pumps/jogging bottoms are not bought by parents for children who are not doing outside PE.

**Staff Carpark**

Helen Wallace was warned that a particular parent repeatedly parks in the staff carpark at the end of the day, often blocking staff in and driving very closely to parked cars. Helen Wallace to monitor.

**‘Poo’**

Poo found on the back playground. We talked about the difficulty of spotting this when checking the playground before the school day when it is still dark. Staff were praised for dealing with incidents quickly when poo is found. It was felt this might be dog poo, not fox or hedgehog. School will continue to monitor. (This has since been identified as definitely fox not dog.)