

Minutes of the Parent Voice meeting – Thursday 21st May 2015
Held in The Barn Cedar Studio

1. Welcome and introduction

Mr McIntosh (Deputy Head Teacher) welcomed parents.

2. Minutes of last meeting and action points

- **Parent Voice website information**

Mr McIntosh had added a distinct and easily accessible 'Parent Voice' section to the main heading bar on the school's website. Within this, there were pages with contact details, next meeting details, minutes from previous meetings and a link to Ofsted's Parent View pages.

- **Homework**

Mr McIntosh had shared the information discussed at April's meeting with teachers. While the new homework is still embedding across the school, there may still be some teething problems and we seek parents' patience while this happens. A review of the homework strategy and practice will be carried out at the end of term.

A question was raised about the timing of the homework display afternoon, specifically that 3pm was too early, and was it viable to combine the next half term's afternoon with display evening. Mr McIntosh explained that it would always be difficult to find a time that suits the majority of parents for any parent-attended event and that the school judges what they consider is most practical and most appropriate for the particular content of each event. This was felt to be most suitable for this type of event.

A question was raised about the possibility of having a structure to the weekly homework (learning journal input) in the same way as the half-termly homework (in-flight menu work). Mr McIntosh would include this suggestion in the review at the end of term.

A point was made that the setting of Mathematics was inconsistent in some sets. Mr McIntosh would return to this at the next meeting.

- **Esafety meeting**

A question was raised about feedback from the Esafety meeting planned for Thursday 11th June being made available. Mr McIntosh agreed that this would be beneficial and would make this request.

- **Home school communication**

Some parents noted that communication was still not as good as they would hope. A suggestion was made for email to be used in the same way as at the Infant School. It was acknowledged that this would take some time to set up but

that it was very worthwhile. Infant parents were now almost always kept up to date with important information as it went straight to their inbox. While website updates and twitter feed was useful, it was not as direct as information going straight to parents' email accounts. Mr McIntosh would discuss the viability of this with the school business manager and Mr McTaggart and report back at the next meeting.

3. **Ofsted inspection**

Mr McIntosh acknowledged that for many parents attending today, the outcome of the latest Ofsted inspection was the key discussion matter for the meeting. The following points were covered:

- Mr McIntosh confirmed that the outcome was not expected by the school, which assessed itself as 'Good' and had also been assessed as such by the Local Authority.
- The school had not had a full inspection since 2004; a reduced-tariff inspection of one day by one inspector was made in 2007 and an interim assessment (a report based on data only, no visit) was made in 2011.
- The school was deeply disappointed by the outcome but, while there could be dispute about various findings, it was important to accept the report as the snapshot seen by inspectors during the day and a half visit and make a full response to the areas requiring improvement.
- The staff and governors were entirely committed to ensuring the school provides the best education it can for all pupils at the school and would be aiming for rapid improvement in the areas requiring improvement through a 'Single Plan' that would outline specific targets, actions, responsibilities and judgments to be taken by the school within a specific timeline. This would be a detailed document for staff and governors and a summary version would be made available for parents.
- There would be a parents' meeting held by the governors on 8th June in the evening to discuss the report and the school's response to it, at which parents would be invited to ask questions, raise concerns or give appropriate general commentary/opinion. Current Year 2 parents were also welcome to attend. Mr McIntosh urged parents to attend if they could and that minutes would be taken and published if parents could not make the meeting.
- Mr McIntosh also outlined the next steps in the process for schools judged as requiring improvement. This would involve a monitoring visit by an HMI (Her Majesty's Inspector of Schools) within 4-12 weeks of the publication of the report. Parents suggested that the information Mr McIntosh shared about this process should be issued to all parents as a means of reassurance about the next stage.
- Parents also asked what they could do to help the school. Mr McIntosh stated that attendance at Parent Voice, positive/constructive suggestions or advice given via other means, involvement in the governing body, helping to build stronger links and relationships between home and school/parents and staff, etc. was always helpful. Further involvement may come out of the Single Plan.

4. AOB

The meeting was brought to a conclusion without time for AOB as the homework display afternoon was about to start. Any suggestions for agenda items for the next meeting could be emailed to Mr McIntosh via parentvoice@barnesfarm-jun.essex.sch.uk, sent to him via the office, put into the Parent Voice box in reception or brought personally to the next meeting.

5. Date and time of next meeting

Mr McIntosh was aware of a desire from some parents to attend a meeting in the evening and he had not settled on a date for this yet. Details would be issued in forthcoming newsletters.