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**Meeting:** Brownlow Parent Forum – spring term

**Date and time:** 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 2:00pm

**Location:** Sherard Primary School

**In attendance**

Parents:

- There was one parent present

Staff:

- Vicky Sellars – Headteacher
- Sarah Child, Head of School, and SENCO
- Anna Duval – MET Clerk

## Welcome and Introductions

Mrs Sellars welcomed the parent to the meeting. The aim of the parent forum is to hear parents voice, for parents to put forward ideas and for open discussions to take place. Parents can suggest topics or subject areas they would like to discuss or receive training in, and relevant school staff can be invited to present at meetings. Parent forums do not discuss items relating to specific pupils, specific parents, or individual staff.

A MS Forms was sent to all parents in advance of the meeting to give feedback and raise questions to the parent forum. There were 6 responses and these were used to shape discussions.

## What works well?

- Being invited in for various activities last term (Christmas decorations, tea party) was really lovely, getting to spend time with our children in their classroom environment was great.
- Big improvement to communication. Like the weekly bulletins to sum up the week. Good notice of events too.
- Parents evening face to face was much better this term. Even though our appt was 10 mins late, it allowed us to have a full conversation with the teacher without being cut off. Last time we were unable to get any points across as the teacher spent most of the time talking - all good things mind you!
- Most things. In general, we are very happy with the school.
- The reading at school and home together with Everyday learning.

Parent said since Miss Child has started her SENCO role the support their child has received has improved and thanked her.

Warning zone trip. It was discussed how this was a successful visit and provided very useful safety information to children.

Mrs Sellars said in the past they have seen issues with children using social media. Children received safety training as part of their warning zone visit.

Residential. Parent said the residential was well organised and good.

Parent said the staff on the school gate in the mornings are friendly and welcoming.

### **In your opinion, what could be improved?**

- Other local schools appear to have better / more opportunities to join in with after school extracurricular activities & clubs such as cooking/gymnastics/dance/forest school/football/art. It would be great to see these activities available at Brownlow too.
- Lunchtimes timings- daughter often comes home and says that she didn't have time to eat her lunch.
- Staggering pick up times. Having a child in both Reception & Yr1 the 5 minute gap sounds good but in practice it doesn't work. My child in reception keeps being let out late and then my child in yr1 far too early. When you are alone picking up 2 children its very stressful. Especially as one time my child in yr1 got our unnoticed and came to find me by the reception classes. Thankfully they didn't wander off out the playground.
- I have never seen the parent forum minutes available on the website from any of the previous meetings, despite you saying that they are. As a parent that works full time, it is frustrating that I cannot see what has been highlighted/discussed.
- Lunchtimes in the dining hall. Both my children feel rushed and anxious because of the school having so many children to get through in a short space of time. Some year 5s get to the dining hall at 12.50 (due to packed lunches having to get their food from the trolley which is far from the dining room first) and are expected to be out at 1! Both my children feel like they are being told off and to hurry up all the time while they are eating. They both dread lunch in the dining hall.
- Not everything being done online it would be amazing if we had the choice of letters and activities being sent home in the book bag 2 fill out /complete etc.

### **Anything else you would like to discuss**

- Not finding it easy 2 keep up online I struggle and I'm trying but I find it difficult and really don't want *child* missing out...id appreciate it if we cud get weekly printouts but I understand it's the way the school works, it's just frustrating 4 me as I want 2 keep up.

Mrs Sellars said Brownlow provides a wide range of extra-curricular and were praised by Ofsted for them. Many of these take place at lunch times and therefore perhaps this information has not always been known to parents. Mrs Sellars said she will provide information on the extra-curricular activities that are taking place.

Mrs Sellars will ensure the parent forum minutes are made available on the school website.

Parent suggested that children would benefit from some learning on friendship skills. Mrs Sellars said this is part of the behaviour culture that includes restorative work and considering others.

The meeting discussed lunch times and children not having enough time to eat when they are later in the rota. Mrs Sellars said there is limited space in the dining room. Staff at present move from the dining area to support the playground at 1pm. Mrs Sellars will make arrangements for a member of staff to support in the dining hall to provide extra time from 1pm to 1.15pm.

The meeting discussed the logistics when collecting children from different year groups. Mrs Sellars suggested the parent speaks to the year 1 teacher so that their child could be moved towards the end of the line. The child can remain with the teacher until the parent arrives after collecting the other child.

The meeting discussed information being online rather than paper format and said online communication is the main format that the school use.

Parent felt the emphasis in year 6 is too SATS heavy. Mrs Sellars said although there is SATs work the timetable includes a broad curriculum with a variety of activities and topics.

Parent felt mental health information could be cascaded down better for other staff to understand the needs and support children better. Mrs Child said there has been some staff training and more will be provided when funding allows.

Parents evening

Mrs Sellars said she would like to know if parents would like parent evenings online, face to face, or mixture.

Parent at the meeting said they preferred the online meetings whereas others had replied that they prefer the face to face meeting.

Class pages on Weduc

Mrs Sellars said every week teachers put some information and pictures of what the class has been doing that week on Weduc and is interested to know parents' views on this. It can be accessed via the app or via the web page.

The meeting ended at 2.50pm.