



PARENT FORUMS HELD ON EACH CAMPUS OCTOBER 2018

Mrs Wright introduced herself as the new Executive Headteacher and told parents that she is currently getting to know the school, the children and parents. Where possible she is out in the playground at the beginning/end of school, spreading herself across the three campuses.

Mrs Wright is looking at areas for improvement. This is why these Parent Forums have been introduced; we need input from parents. On our Inset Day at the beginning of term staff were asked for their suggestions. Once the priorities are established Mrs Wright will relentlessly drive them forward. A real strength of the school is behaviour and the relationship between parents, children and the teachers.

Reading - parents were asked for their views, whether there is too much, too little, etc. Their response showed that generally parents are happy with the progress their children are making in reading and they enjoy reading the books that come home with their children although it was recognised that this is not so easy for working parents. Parents felt that whole class guided reading is beneficial and noted the value of the library which enables children to choose books of interest to them, as well as giving pupils responsibility via the Junior Librarian scheme.

Areas for development suggested by parents include the removal of negative consequences for not reading enough at home. **This has already been implemented.** Parents requested more information surrounding phonics and progress monitoring, as well as a broader selection of books. Parents would also like to see more rigorous checking of the books children choose and a system to ensure books are taken home.

If any parents would like to come into school and read with children, it would be very much appreciated; please speak to the office staff/teacher if you are able to volunteer.

Writing - one of our biggest challenges; for children writing is probably the most difficult thing to master. We are looking at how to teach grammar in a very exciting way.

We are holding Hook events and Years 2-6 will be going out to the cinema, while Year R and Year 1 will also have a cinema experience within school. Our writing will focus on these exciting events.

There was much discussion around joined up handwriting and Mrs Wright informed parents that a clear and consistent handwriting policy has been implemented immediately; in Early Years we will concentrate on forming the letters and from Year 1 we will teach cursive. Parents want to be empowered to help teach writing to their children. Areas for development include sharing written work with parents, giving parents more information with regard to expectations in homework (whether it should be handwritten or not). The general feeling of parents appeared to be that pupils need more handwriting practice and put forward a range of ideas including writing competitions, use of dictation and focusing on slowing down the thought process in pupils to improve writing.

Maths - we understand that it is difficult for parents to support their children with maths because of the varying ways it is taught. We are looking at different approaches, including the Singapore method. We will keep you informed when a decision is made.

Parents appreciate that the use of TT Rockstars and other methods of teaching are making maths fun but would like a review of TT Rockstars to incorporate more varied homework. Parents would like more maths workshops to aid their understanding of teaching methods as well as any fact sheets available.

Behaviour - Mrs Wright said that in this school behaviour overall is excellent; one or two children occasionally don't behave in a way we would expect but the school will be reviewing the policy to ensure it celebrates our positive behaviour and that it is applied consistently. A working party will carry this out and parents will be invited to share their views.

Parents expressed a wish for more incentives for consistently good behaviour and asked that the grouping of children in class is carefully monitored.

Communication - parents acknowledged many aspects of communication at South Camberley are great; in particular they like newsletters, emails, texts, open forums and the new parent evening booking system.

Areas for development include whole year dates being published (currently being worked on) which also covers more notice for events. Specifying which class/year group the communication relates to would be helpful. Parents requested chalk boards showing important dates/events; the school is actively seeking interactive whiteboards for this purpose.

Mrs Wright informed parents that we have just secured approval to install wi-fi across all three campuses. This was completed over the half term break.

It was noted that the South Camberley Website App is not working properly and this will be investigated.

General Observations - Mrs Wright told parents that she is currently looking to assign teachers on each campus to work with the PTA to reflect the needs/views of each site and that all money raised by the PTA will be spent on our priority – the children. We will also be reviewing the start and end times on each campus.

Parents praised our Ambassador system saying it gives the children great life experiences. A focus on spelling and social skills was requested. Parents noted that enrichment days are great and asked for more. Workshops for parents are appreciated although it was pointed out that they are usually held during the working day making it difficult for working parents to attend. However, presentations are always uploaded to our website after sessions. A system for spreading costs for school trips was also requested.

Updates on this parent forum will be brought to the next one; they will be held on a termly basis, the next ones are set for Tuesday 4th December 9:00am at James Road, Thursday 6th December 9:00am at France Hill Drive and Friday 7th December at the Junior Campus. Parents may contact Mrs Wright through the office and Mrs MacKenzie. It was suggested that the focus of the next parent forum should be home learning as there was much discussion around this area.

25 parents/carers attended the session at France Hill Drive, 13 at James Road and 15 at the Junior Campus.