

Community Forum

Tuesday 28th June

5pm – 6pm

Minutes

Tara Penny welcomed everyone, staff and governors introduced themselves to parents on line and in the room.

Agreed format for evening

Tara to talk about:

Ofsted

Curriculum

SEND

Volunteers

Clubs

After each section, take questions, then any other questions can be raised at the end, people on line encouraged to put questions in comment box.

Agreed confidentiality – not speaking about specific children – own or others. Parents were encouraged to arrange a meeting if they wish to speak about a specific issues.

OFSTED

Tara explained that we had a Section 8 inspection, which is ‘a short inspection of schools currently judged as 'Good' and determines whether the school continues to provide a good standard of education and that safeguarding is effective.’

Our last Ofsted was in October 2014, data dropped between then and 2019 so our Inspector (who was an HMI) was looking to see if we were still good, or if we had declined.

Our HMI looked at the quality of education, behaviour and attitudes, personal development and leadership and management.

Tara couldn't say the outcome, but did say she will be happy to share it when it comes through. We do have areas to work on – which is exactly what we would expect and we welcome. The areas are already underway and our HMI could see we were already addressing them.

The report should hopefully be ready to share before the end of the term.

There were no questions about the Ofsted process.

Curriculum

Tara explained that it has been an ambitious year with a lot of new initiatives. Staff have worked really hard and are proud of the progress we have made.

We have had a new EYFS curriculum – also the new classrooms, decking and resources in Nursery and Reception.

Read Write Inc, our phonics program has gone from strength to strength – children are making good progress in early reading. Natasha Birnie monitors attainment and works with staff to ensure progress.

Maths – our curriculum is based on White Rose which Jason Foreman leads and is further developing for next year. This year we had the first Times Table test in Y4. Parents are encouraged to practice times tables at home before Y4!

Geography, history and science – we have been developing our Trust curriculum which we call our 'Base Curriculum', it has much more rigor, we have strong leadership and MAT support, also Ogden Trust for science.

PE – we have continued to have coaches from Saints, participated in competitions organised by Ocra also introduced Real PE a resource to support teaching and learning further.

We teach French as our Modern Foreign Language (MFL) this year we have had a specialist teacher – Vicki Jordan teaching KS2 (that's Year3, 4, 5 & 6) Y3&4 are making great progress, Y5 and 6 have a Covid legacy so are catching up. We have a French theatre experience next week.

Music – we had a very smooth hand over from Carol Matthews to Juliet Boyce who is also a subject specialist. This year we have been working with the Voices Foundation to develop or singing across the school.

PSHE – personal, social health and economics education which our children have decided to call 'life skills' has been instrumental in supporting children after Covid back in to the routines of school, building relationships and personal responsibility. Sarah Keen is further adapting and improving the curriculum next year with SCARF. Pupil personal development really strong here.

Outdoor education – this year we have a pond thanks to volunteers working on a Saturday, we have Wildlife Champions who have been working with Devon Wildlife Trust. We have benefited from Kaydee Prince's Forest School training and all classes have taken part in activities to encourage team building and resilience.

English, Computing, Art, DT and RE have all continued as previously and will be areas for further development over the following years.

Next year – time to embed what we have put in place this year!

Looking forward

With continued restrictions, community has been hard to engage especially with Tara being new. We really want more parent engagement There are lots of activities in the calendar this term - Sports day, Music concert, Summer Fair. In the Autumn term we will have parent workshops for phonics and x tables, FONTS events and Christmas events in school! Also the return of parents attending assemblies in person each half term.

Questions

How are the multiplication tests administered? Beth Radbourne and Jason Foreman explained the online format and the adaptations that can be made for children with needs.

Will you continue to develop outdoor learning? Emma MacDonald will lead on outdoor learning, we will continue our relationship with Devon Wildlife Trust and have lots of opportunities for volunteering to further develop and improve our grounds for wildlife and learning.

SEND

Tara asked if parents knew who is responsible for children with special educational needs and disabilities at our school. It was a bit of a trick question! Although Chloe Bennett is the coordinator, it is the class teachers who are responsible for the teaching and learning of the children in their classes.

A SENDCO (special educational needs and disabilities coordinator) is the member of staff who advises on SEND. Chloe Bennett works across three schools advising us all and supporting our processes.

Tara explained that all children will have a need for additional support at some point in their time at school, however some children have greater need than others and therefore need different or additional support. It may be an adaptation, such as color of paper, to seating, to word bank, it may be a particular kind of teaching. Some children have an ongoing need which is called a special educational need.

The four stages of SEN support are • Assess • Plan • Do • Review

In Devon we use a tool called the Graduated Response to assess the needs. This is done by the class teacher. Many needs can be met in class with some additional thought and planning. This is called 'Quality first teaching'

Our teachers and TAs have had extensive training, CPD in all sorts of techniques to support learning including precision teaching, Lego therapy, and we have specific programmes such as Nessy to support different needs. Most children's need can be met in the classroom with careful and thoughtful differentiation which we record on My Plans.

EHCs and funding are not easily obtained. We need a lot of evidence of additional support and even then, can be rejected.

The most important thing is that children can access the curriculum in their class. We do not advocate children working solely 1:1 with a TA or being removed from class unless a very specific need. We need all children to become independent. This was not always the case in the past.

The Trust is opening a special school called the Promise School – it will not suit all children with SEND but will suit some. They will be providing outreach to other schools. We have already benefited from advice and support from the school and it hasn't opened yet!

There are still slots available for SEND clinics on 5th July

Always make an appointment to talk to me or class teacher if you have other concerns.

No Questions

Volunteering

After so long due to the pandemic, we really want to welcome back our volunteers!

Thank you to- governors, trustees, Parents who work to support the school as volunteers.

Thank you to parents for driving Y6 children on their activity week.

We would like support with reading with children, developing the pond area, improving, and maintaining our Rainbow Garden – Leanne (Lara's mum) has offered to lead on this.

Tara directed parents to read the recent articles in our school newsletter and local magazine Roundabout.

There is an information pack, and we do need references, DBS and safeguarding for volunteers to attend training. If you know someone – please pass on our details.

If you are able, please help make the Summer Fair a success.

Questions

What kind of references are needed? – if you don't have a work reference, a character reference from someone who has known you and can say you are reliable.

What needs to be done at the Summer Fair? Running activities, setting up, clearing up. Please see the sign up board!

Clubs

Thank you to the staff for running clubs this year. In the past there was an after-school club and breakfast club, but they were not well attended and were not financially viable. Some parents have asked for this to be reinstated. The recent survey is not clear on how many parents would use it as the majority said 'occasionally.'

We have a company who are able to start a club, but would be on a trial so they are not at a financial loss. They will charge £4.50 per hour and a reduced rate for siblings and early bird offers. We need to have good take up to make it worthwhile.

Tara Penny to send out a questionnaire this week.

Questions

It was raised by a parent that since the pandemic, there is a feeling of distance between staff and parents, and a physical distance in the collection routine. Staff also recognised that it can be difficult to speak to parents at the end of the day because of the logistics of collection. Staff assured parents that they are happy to be approached and want to talk at the end of the day. Tara, or occasionally another member of staff, is always at the gate in the morning

Parents can email, dojo or phone the office number to ask for a meeting.

There will be class meetings in the Autumn and a community forum like this in the summer term.

There were no other questions, so the meeting closed.

Thank you to all who were able to attend either in person or on line.