

Parents Forum Minutes



Jewell Academy
an Aspirations Academy

Date: 17.11.21

Attendance: 14 parents, PTA, AW and AS

Led by: Alex Waddington

Minutes taken by: Ali Sincliar

Agenda Item	Minutes	Actions
Agenda shared with parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Governance- Behaviour Policy- Homework- Playtime lunchtime- PTA	
What is the parent's forum?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Sharing information knowledge and skills of parents- Mutually supportive environment- Improve communication- Ideas from parents- Suggestions to improve the school- Information can be found on our school website- Planning for the next meetings to be at 2pm in the Spring and 6pm in the Summer to ensure all parents are able to attend one of the forums- AW set agenda today but parents can raise agenda items for the next meetings	
School Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Shared difference between governance in our Academy compared to Local Authority schools- Shared Aspirations Academy Trust website and shared Board of Trustee members- Explained regions for the Trust and local schools within our Trust	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shared who's who: Steve and Paula Kenning, David Herbert, Jo Quarrie and additional board members 	
Behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AW shared 3 school rules: Safe, Ready and Respect - School is regulated by the Trust - latest trust monitoring was: Good - We are very proud of our children - Behaviour policy can be found on the website - AW shared the behaviour policy for each stage of our school - AW shared rewards - AW shared sanctions - Jo Quarrie joined the meeting - AW explained the Year 6 behaviour system - collaborated approach with local secondary schools so children are well prepared for Year 7 - AW shared that one size does not fit all (individualised behaviour systems) - AW asked if any questions: None at this time. - JQ shared positive feedback from Trust monitoring 	
Homework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Policy available on website - AW shared our blended learning approach to homework - Age and stage appropriate - Creative projects - topic home learning - Homework club at Community Centre available to support parents - Homework increases as we go up the school and we try to encourage children to do their homework in a timely manner - Any views on homelearning? - A parent shared that they felt that there was too much focus on screen time and with parents who have more than one child, they may not have facilities at home to accommodate this. - AW shared during lockdown concerns about screen time and the support / additional devices that were given to parents who needed them. AW shared that many of the future jobs for our children today will be new and most will be 	<p>Discuss home learning activities with class teachers. Focus on topic</p>

	<p>computer coding based, however we can try to make sure there is a balance between paper based and screen based.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A parent shared that they were a working parent, so felt that their children were at a disadvantage as they were not always home to support them and when they are at home they focus on family time. The parent would appreciate parent support / workshops to try and help children at home for example for phonics. - AW shared that we are able to start to do workshops for parents and these workshops for example Phonics, would be advertised in the newsletter for parents and we have planned for further opportunities for future workshops after Christmas for example sharing our Maths Calculation Policy. Homework clubs for KS1 are also being offered as well as the homework club at the Community Centre if parents would like additional support. - Jo Q shared that good communication with the class teacher could also support parents with the potential of providing parent leaflets e.g. a glossary of words. - AS shared that at parent evening, parents should also receive additional information on statutory key words for their year group to support all parents/carers - A parent shared that they would like to see more of a focus on writing in school. - AW shared our books are full of writing and in particular, we are keen to provide as many cross curricular activities writing opportunities as possible. At parents' evening parents/carers will have an opportunity to look at their child's books and their writing opportunities. - A parent shared that they would like to see more writing opportunities for home learning. - AS shared that each year group has spellings or key words given as part of their writing home learning each week. Parents/carers could use these spellings to provide their children with additional writing challenges such as writing sentences or a story using these words. - Jo Q shared that we could share our information on how to write (kinesthetic approaches EYFS/KS1) to help parents with children who need to start writing. 	<p>home learning not being computer based. Share with parents how their child could complete still online home learning opportunities without a screen.</p> <p>Parent workshops to be advertised in the newsletter and on Facebook. Jewell to create and share key vocabulary and / or glossaries to support parent/carers with school vocabulary</p> <p>Investigate and share information with parents on how to support children to write in EYFS/KS1.</p>
--	---	--

- AW shared that we also have a 'learn to move' club every morning for some of our children who need further support with their fine and gross motor skills.
- A parent shared two questions: Can you tell me more about a pen licence? Will grammar school information be shared and do the school prepare children for the grammar school test?
- AW shared in Y5 parents will receive information about all options for secondary schools, in normal circumstances secondary schools come into school to share the options parents/carers have and how to apply, this can also all be found on the secondary schools' website and the BCP website. We do often have the offer from local grammar schools to come in to share workshops with the children who would like to apply and this happened last summer. We have an open door policy, so parents are able to come and talk to us at any time if they are considering their child attending a grammar school / taking the test and teachers would be happy to discuss current attainment. Some elements of the grammar school test are not part of the National Curriculum so parents are advised to take a look at some of the grammar school preparation books/ practice tests beforehand. AW's advice would be to go and look at different secondary schools to find the one that is right for your child. Many of the local secondary schools offer a grammar stream as well so there are lots of opportunities for all of our children.
- A parent shared that they felt the school should tell them if their child should go to a grammar school.
- AW shared that teachers would discuss your child's attainment at any point that a parent wanted and more formally during parents evenings so parents should have a good awareness of their child's academic ability and if a parent asked about the option of grammar school teachers would be happy to discuss this with them
- Jo Q shared that we can not be seen to favour a school but we would certainly share information about grammar schools and if you ask a teacher we would share information. Elements of the test are not in the National Curriculum so it is important that parents are aware of what is involved in the application process.

	<p>We now have a very good choice of secondary schools to select from, now with opportunities for grammar streams, so it's about finding a school that best fits your child and where they will thrive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A parent shared that they felt the same and it is about finding the right school for your child. The parent shared that they have two children and one school was great for one child but not another. - AW shared information on pen licenses. A pen licence is when a child is given a pen to write with instead of a pencil once their handwriting is at a good standard. This resets at the start of each year. Some children, who find writing difficult, may have a pen licence due to their fine motor skill needs rather than their handwriting ability. If you have any questions, please talk to your child's teachers at any time. - A parent shared that their children really like TT Rockstars and Prodigy but they don't like Lexia as much. - AW shared that we have Accelerated Reader and Lexia available to support children in their reading. We also timetable opportunities for this into the day so talk to your child's teacher about the amount of time they need to do on Lexia. - A parent shared that they felt Lexia was a really good way of working online during lockdown and that they like it as a home learning option. - Jo Q shared that Lexia is a reading intervention so your child may just need a book for pleasure but please let their teacher know. 	
PTA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The PTA shared the amount of money raised at Summer Fayre - The PTA thanked everyone for attending and for their support. - The PTA shared that they have purchased equipment for playtimes and are now focusing on improving the sensory room further. The PTA has also bought a new canopy for Forest School as well to support outdoor learning in all weather and are awaiting for this to arrive. - PTA shared their plan for future fundraising for the sensory room 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The PTA asked parents/carers to continue to share any ideas for fundraising ideas for the future and any offers of support for the future events would be greatly appreciated. 	
Six Learning Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AW shared our new learning skills for children at Jewell Academy: Teamwork, Kindness, Honesty, Courage, Independence and Resilience - AW discussed the meaning of each learning skill - AW shared Aspirations Academy Trusts' 8 Conditions for Learning and how these are embedded in our children's learning and that we will be relaunching these again in January 	
Facebook/Twitter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please follow us on Facebook and Twitter! - We share lots of current information on our Facebook site as well as pictures and events that are happening or coming up in school, 	
AOB	<p>Jo Q asked parents/carers to share with us anything they would like on the agenda for our next meeting.</p> <p>A parent asked what extra-curricular opportunities are available for children? AW shared that there are many opportunities for children in and outside of school time including trips, visitors and visits in school and shared that we have just started our new extra curricular after school clubs which have been very successful and very popular. There is a board outside the main office for parents to see what is on offer each half term. Parents are informed of what opportunities are available the half term before and have the opportunity to sign their child up. Link on FB for extra curricular clubs</p> <p>A parent asked if other extra-curricular sports opportunities are available for children Y1/2? AS shared that KS1 children have the opportunity to take part in multi-skills, this club involves lots of skills from a range of sports. AS shared that extra curricular clubs are carefully planned each term and there will continue to be sports opportunities for KS1</p>	

children each half term and this may change to more formal sports during the summer term.

A parent asked if we could provide opportunities for children to access bike safety lessons/learning.

AW shared that bike safety normally focuses on children in Year 5 and Year 6. We have recently taken part in bikeability which encourages children to come to school on a scooter or bike and we also encouraged children to walk that week if they didn't have a bike. AW said we would look into opportunities for bike safety assemblies or workshops for our children.

A parent shared that they went to the council for lessons for riding a bike but children need to be able to hold a bike before they can take part.

A parent shared that the parent email address is bouncing back their emails. They went to the school office for this to be fixed.

Jo Q shared for parents to please alert the office asap if they are not receiving or able to send emails so we can help and fix this.

AW shared that no year groups emails are now in use and that parents should use the parent email instead or talk to staff at the start or end of the day.

A parent shared that during the Year 2 Victorian Hook Day, children could bring in a 'Victorian' packed lunch or have cooked lunch. Although this was on the letter, it was not clear that the children would be given a 'Victorian' school packed instead of their school cooked dinner. This caused their child to have a difficult time when they were not given the cooked lunch they were expecting.

AW apologised for this and would look into this with the teachers in Year 2. AW thanked parents for all of their efforts with the children's costumes as they all looked fantastic!

A parent shared that Parent Pay allows you to choose meal choices termly, which they did, but for some reason their child did not get the choices as they were not selected for that week.

Jewell Academy to investigate bike education opportunities for children.

Jo Q asked if the parent had brought this up at the time as she wanted to check staff communication. The parent replied that they were going to bring it up at parents' evening. Jo Q shared to always let us know so we can help and ensure all children have the correct meal choices and rectify any problems asap.

[A parent shared that the answer phone needs to be changed as it has some incorrect contact information on it.](#)

AW thanked the parent and said she was aware and this was being changed for parents.

[A parent asked why some of the Victorian photos were not on Facebook?](#)

AW shared that some of our children do not have photo permission from parents or for safeguarding reasons and therefore sometimes we cannot always share photos. We also share many photos in the newsletter instead along with further information and that she knew photos from Victorian day were due to be shared with parents in the next newsletter.

AW thanked the PTA for providing refreshments for today and thanked all the parents for their continued support for staff and children at Jewell Academy.