

AVON PRIMARY PARENT/CARER FORUM



Meeting number: 1

Date: 12.1.16

Attendees: Anna Morris (Deputy), Jane Atkins (Head), Mrs S. Norris, Mrs F. Stone, Mrs L. Rosewell

Many thanks also to Jo Ferns (Business Manager) and Rob England (Learning Mentor) for their input in parts of the meeting.

Item	Outcomes
Welcome!	We talked about the purpose of the forum, to enlist the support and advice of parents/carers on a range of school improvement issues that feature in our School Improvement plan. Members are not required to disseminate information or be a 'link' or class representative.
The school website- what do parents/carers need and want?	<p>An excellent range of ideas were discussed and debated including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A PTFA page • A children's page with useful links <p>A staff page with photos, video and/or written information to allow parents/carers to 'get to know staff' on a more individual level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear uniform expectations • Curriculum, termly update • Class page curriculum termly updates • A brief, weekly class page update of key skills being taught, and maybe the strategies used • Continuation of photos on class pages to prompt discussions at home • A central link to all letters sent out • A link with 'Class Do-Jo' as and when classes begin to use it (just trialled at present)
Social Media- what Facebook and Twitter should be used for in our school	We agreed that we have to keep up to date with this means of communication and promotion of the school. We had a long discussion on whether children's photos should appear and how this is a personal decision. We also talked about whether parents/carers should be able to comment on the future Facebook page. Main decisions were:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The photo consent form would continue to have options of opt in for all photo usage (website, Twitter, Facebook, press), opt out for all photo usage or opt for just allowing photos to be used around the school. • We all felt that parents/carers SHOULD be allowed to comment, as long as the page states clearly that it shouldn't be used to air grievances, directing parents to the proper complaints procedure. This facility may be limited in the holidays.
Parent Coffee Mornings	<p>A very productive discussion resulted in many ideas for this. We shared ideas for the format, the length and the content of the sessions, and how structured they should be. There were differing opinions on this. It was felt that some parents/carers would want an informal opportunity to chat and share parenting tips, but that some parents would appreciate visiting speakers and direct guidance on different topics. We decided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings would be monthly on Thursday mornings at 9:00 until 10:30 • Venue would need to be discussed further, but a crèche would be available for toddlers • There would be a chosen theme for each one • The structure would be as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 9:00-9:15 Coffee and relax! - 9:15-9:45 Input from visiting or school professional on chosen theme, with informal discussion, or just a general discussion - 9:45-10:30 A Chance to chat to other parents/carers, a member of the Leadership team or the Learning Mentor in a relaxed setting about anything at all! You wouldn't have to attend the first part to come to this. • Suggested themes were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reading/maths at home - Behaviour at home - Children's dental care - Stopping smoking - First aid - College courses/adult education - Stress and mindfulness - School holidays - Children's health and healthy eating e.g. lunchboxes - Dealing with school worries • The first sessions will be Thursday 4th February, theme to be announced! The next session will be Thursday 10th March.