**Park Grove Parent Forum**

**Notes of meeting 9 am, 12 November 2015, Board Room, Park Grove School**

**9 Attendees**

***Responses from Ms Sawyer are in italics below each point***

1. **Notes from last meeting**

No matters arising from meeting attendees. See item 2d.

1. **Subjects from Parents emails and suggestion box:**
2. **Total Sports**

The Governors had asked for the parent forum feedback on Total Sports. The school is given money particularly for sport, and Park Grove chooses to spend this on Total Sports, so the Governors are keen to know how parents feel about this.

Comments were very positive – children enjoy the variety of sports, there is a good range, good link to the sports after school clubs which the Total Sports tutors often provide, a parent said their child who was “not so sporty” looked forward to the lessons and enjoyed them, parents were asked about the tone and quality of the teaching and they thought it was very good, felt the whole area of sports really important.

***Noted***

1. **School Dinners**

This issue had come up via the suggestion box, email and parents specifically attending the meeting to talk about it. As has been brought up in previous meetings, parents and children are unhappy with the quality of the school dinners and the experience of eating in the dining hall. There was a long and detailed discussion with a number of specific points. In general it was felt that this was a really important issue, and directly linked to quality of children’s learning and behaviour. Suggestions included a child questionnaire about school meals to get more feedback and a parent noted that at Clifton Green they have moved school dinners in house with great success – can we talk to that school about that model?

***Ms Sawyer took our detailed points to the Area Manager at School Caterer, ISS, and had a very productive discussion. There have been issues with staff turnover this term, and the Area Manager also immediately spent some time in school to look at some of the specific issues and suggested ways of addressing them. She has also offered to run pupil tasting sessions and will also come along to the next Parent Forum to talk to parents, and bring samples of food.***

1. **Website and Newsletters**

School governors were keen to know whether parents looked at and valued the class newsletters that are posted on the website, and also feedback on the website in general.

* website good but difficult to navigate – too many sub menus, and very difficult on mobiles
* newsletters generally liked and appreciated, everyone present looked at them - although again need to go through 3 menus before getting to them
* website v good for letters home and dates

***School has just signed up to a 2 year agreement to give extra support on maintenance and update of website, which will include a redesign to improve navigation.***

1. **Playground Parking**

(This was also an item carried over from the previous meeting) A parent had approached the Chair to say they were unhappy with the response re parking in the front playground. As we are encouraging children and parents to walk and cycle to school, why not teachers.

It was pointed out that the school was looking to new hard surface play provision at the rear of the building.

***As with previous responses to this issue, note that teachers often take 90 books home per night to mark, and cannot manage these on a bike. Those who do bike stay very late at school to get marking done, but this is not an option for many of the teachers who need to get home to families. Note that since the car park was built, staffing has probably tripled – now have TAs, support staff, Phoenix etc, and so the car park is very crowded on just a normal work day. The school only opens the front playground to parking on days when there are extra visitors or staff for meetings, and tries to plan this as efficiently as possible.***

1. **Other subjects brought to the meeting**

**Cool Milk** – this is a service that parents can buy into for 20p a day to get their children milk at playtime. Seems a really good scheme but not heavily promoted and can the school promote this more.

***School will promote this again***

**Schoolmoney** – the chair asked how parents were finding it – those who were using it were find it ok, but not completely clear how it works, doesn’t seem to show payments going in..?

***Note extending for one year, hoping more people will sign up***

1. **Any Other Business**

A number of other issues came up through discussion at the end of the meeting:

**Breaktime snacks –** are KS2 children in particular allowed to bring in snacks, many children are hungry by 11 and have to wait till 12.30 or later for lunch?

***Yes, many children already bring snacks – but they should be healthy please, fruit or raisins etc***

**Choir** – question about provision. Noted that both teachers who normally run choir are either not in school or not at school any more. But general request to look at music provision, note that Hempland and Heworth are now sharing a music specialist teacher, can we look at this? Do we ask parents with musical knowledge to volunteer?

***Note that Young Voices running in KS2 at moment and Mrs Hearson is working on KS1 choir for Christmas.***

**Theatre Royal** – can we have more info on the scheme – nothing updated since the “ambassadors” last Autumn term

***This year the activity dates are in the Spring and Summer term, so will hear more about this after Christmas, but as with last year, each class will get a workshop/visit etc during the year.***

**General point about response to Parent Forum**

Parents want to make the point that they understand issues brought up through meetings like this take time to consider, they are not expecting solutions to these issues immediately, and don’t want to appear they are adding to teachers’ workloads - we are happy to work with the school to look at solutions over time.