

BEECHWOOD PARENTS FORUM

Tuesday, 25th November, 2015
7.00-8.00 p.m.



Why a Parent Forum?

- To ensure further opportunities for Parent Voice
- To encourage more parents to get involved in school life
- To ensure parents are able to raise issues, be consulted on school policy and give their views
- Research proves that when parents are involved in their child's learning and in the life of the school, children do better.

Why is it an important role?

- participation in deciding how the parent representative body, the Parent Forum, is organised and how it operates
- identifying issues you want to work on with the school
- being asked your opinion on issues relating to the school and the education it provides.

Our Commitment

The Parent Forum is a platform for parents through which to express their suggestions and ideas for improvements at the school. We are committed to working closely with parents to ensure they are completely happy with their child's education and feel that their views and opinions are listened to and acted upon.

Attendance

The Parent Forum is open to all parents. The Forum will be attended by the Headteacher and other members of the Senior Leadership Team. The Parent Forum can ask for other members of staff to attend if required.

Notes from the meeting

Notes from the meeting will:

- Be emailed to all parents who attend the Parent Forum meeting
- Be on the website under a new Parents section
- Be displayed in the Parent noticeboards on the playground

Important!!

It is very important to note that the Parent Forum will NOT have any statutory responsibilities, duties or powers in the school, but it will help us to communicate more effectively with our parent community.

Parental Questionnaire

Just before half term we asked parents to complete a questionnaire. We had 85 parental replies.

The overwhelming response was extremely positive and identified some areas for us to work on improving.

| | 85 Parental replies | Strong Agree | Agree | Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Don't Know |
|----|---|--------------|-------|----------|-------------------|------------|
| 1 | I feel my child is happy at school. | 44 | 40 | 1 | | |
| 2 | I feel my child is well cared for at school. | 47 | 36 | 1 | | 1 |
| 3 | I feel my child is taught well at school. | 43 | 42 | | | |
| 4 | I feel my child receives appropriate homework. | 32 | 47 | 5 | | 1 |
| 5 | I feel this school encourages pupils to behave well. | 52 | 31 | 1 | | 1 |
| 6 | I feel the school deals effectively with bullying. | 28 | 23 | 1 | | 33 |
| 7 | I feel able to approach the school with questions or problems. | 45 | 34 | 1 | | 5 |
| 8 | The school keeps me informed about how my child is progressing (we send out reports in March and July and hold 3 parents evenings). | 38 | 32 | 2 | | 13 |
| 9 | The school keeps me informed about what is being taught (e.g. termly booklets, website, open weeks, newsletters). | 40 | 43 | 1 | | 1 |
| 10 | I would like to become more involved with the school (e.g. Parent Teacher Association, Governors, helping at events). | 14 | 21 | 32 | 2 | 16 |

strengths of the school

- Teaching and great teachers
- Care
- After school clubs, Breakfast Club
- Encourage unity and good behaviour. They reward both very well and are good at giving incentives. Everyone certainly seems happy.
- All the staff are very good at what they do and have a great rapport with children.
- Encouraging pupils to become independent.
- Parental involvement. I thoroughly enjoyed interacting with my son in 'Open Week'.
- Music lessons as standard.
- Welcoming school.
- The amazing hearts of the teachers.
- My child is well cared for and is receiving a good education.
- I feel my children are safe, looked after and educated very well. They are very involved in clubs etc. and like to see the children do well and provide rewards and help.
- Opportunities – clubs, music etc. – varied.
- Pupil support – invaluable role.
- Staff friendliness and approachability.
- Nurturing atmosphere, creative learning, and good behaviour. Lovely outdoor areas. Good interventions.
- Community spirit, sense of belonging and pride in the school. Children are taught strong values.
- SEND provision.
- Encouragement.
- Variation to stimulate in all areas i.e. music, sport, drama.
- Strong morals and expectations – exceptional staff who are clearly dedicated to their roles.

- Happy, calm feeling throughout the school.
- Free after school clubs – very nice.
- Community focus, caring for children, communication channels.
- Good ethics and well behaved children.
- Respect for each other.
- Keeping safe.
- Helping children to use their own independent skills.
- Making learning interesting to keep children motivated.
- Displays/presentations/inspiring environment.
- Sense of community.
- Reward system.
- Standard of teaching.
- Incentives for the children.
- Good parental involvement.
- Communication is good. Emails are answered promptly.
- Being able to come and see how school runs during Open Weeks.
- Dealing with bullying.
- Strong teachers with great skills, lots of opportunities for the children and a school with a great atmosphere.
- No tolerance on bad behaviour.
- Inclusion, parent inclusion and friendly and welcoming
- My son really likes attending school so whatever you're doing works well!

Parental responses identifying areas for improvement

- A shame that we only get the newsletter online. Maybe just the important dates could be sent home.
- Communication on a day to day basis. The Headteachers at Glenfield walked round the playground talking to the parents - I've not seen that yet at Beechwood. Direct face to face talking is so valuable and underestimated these days.
- Introduction of more ICT computer knowledge as it is very important in all workplaces and all aspects of life.
- Does the school teach about other faiths apart from Islam? Plus - what about teaching English history more?
- Communication between teachers and parents regarding detentions.
- More after school clubs.
- Learn Latin.
- Maybe a once a month paragraph on pupils progress, possible improvements/great work.
- Enforcing uniform code.
- Equal sanctions for behaviour.
- More opportunity to talk to the teacher about my child's progress in the first half term.
- Improvements in how achievements are recognised. My daughter was expected to stand in front of the whole school to celebrate 2 achievements. It didn't happen, she was too nervous. Her class teacher eventually supported her to talk about her achievements in class. There should be a better system.
- Message for illness.
- I received several separate letters on coloured paper that could have easily been combined into one with a slip and tick list for clubs children want to join.
- Increases in the number of homeworks for children, particularly in maths, science and English.
- To send a text out about school uniform if misplaced for parents to check. My son has lost 2 jumpers and 1 coat and they are still not returned!!!

- Seating arrangements. I'm worried my child is distracted due to sitting with naughty children.
 - My son has applied for various after school clubs. On both occasions he hasn't been given a space on any yet and would like to.
 - The quality of text messages. The tone is always abrupt and makes us feel as if we're being told off. Doesn't help to build a good relationship or sense of partnership!
 - I do feel that lots of effort is put into keeping me informed of how well one of my children is doing as he is doing so well, however, my youngest is not so obvious and I feel a little like I don't know how he's doing other than what he tells me.
 - If a child has earned a warning back, then the teacher needs to explain to the child why they have crossed their name off. This will give encouragement to the child not to do it again.
 - Sending out weekly reports about homework.
 - Flexibility for working parents, perhaps an open evening to celebrate current student's work, clubs, societies on offer. To keep parents involved with topic work, on-going projects etc.
 - Keeping the website up to date. Clearer communication regarding discos etc. - especially for Year 3 parents who are unsure of the way they work.
 - The warning systems does seem a little disjointed with some pupils receiving them for fairly minor acts, whilst others seem to 'get away' with more.
 - Teacher's spellings on spelling lists home.
 - Give pupils daily homework.
 - The transition between Glenfield and Beechwood seems to have gone smoothly. However, I feel that the teaching and teacher's expectations are very high. I think that the children should maybe have a 'gentler' first term in Junior School. The children have had a lot to learn in the first term. These things have definitely led to anxiety with my daughter. It is not so much the actual learning just the non-curricular learning.
 - More communication.
 - The Code of Conduct and rules for my child and other children to improve behaviour.
 - Homework - the weekly homework is not adequate and needs to be increased to at least 1 hour of work daily.
 - Nice colourful bins outside the play area as it lacks them
- Children should be in proper queues while waiting to get inside.

Homework

Each Spring term we have a working parent of parents and staff to review our homework policy.



Over to you.....

Please brainstorm issues that you would like to discuss or raise at future Parent Forums.

Once you have done this please rank the Top 10 issues you would like to be discussed. 1 being the top issue.

We will then collect these in and draw up an Agenda for the next meeting.