



**Rise Park**  
Academy Trust

### **Parent Voice Meeting**

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

Mrs Robinson, Miss Street and nine parents across the Trust met in the Infant School Hall. The meeting commenced at 9.05am.

The following points were discussed:

#### **Clubs**

- Several parents explained that the clubs in both schools were working well and they liked the system of being able to pay via ParentPay.
- Some Junior School parents expressed that they had seen great improvements in the range of clubs available to the children during the day, as they had had previous children go through the school.
- Some Infant parents explained that their child had enjoyed art club and whether this was running again. Mrs Robinson explained that it wasn't at the moment.
- A list of clubs for both schools would be sent out via ParentMail as a reminder to parents.

#### **Homework**

- Some Infant parents expressed that occasionally there can be too much homework to complete, particularly if they have more than one child in the school. It can often take up too much of parent's time and can have a negative effect on the relationship between them and their child/children if they do not want to complete it. Mrs Robinson explained that as long as the core tasks were completed, such as reading with their child, learning their spellings and completing the maths homework, then that was the main thing. Some parents explained that tasks that involve research or more topic based work, should be set over a longer period of time, e.g. half term breaks. One parent also mentioned that a piece of maths homework in Year 2 had been set on Education City which required the sheet to be printed. She was unable to do this which meant her child missed out on a sticker. Mrs Robinson explained that she would remind the teachers of the expectations of setting homework.
- Some Junior parents explained that it's good that house points are awarded to motivate the children to complete their homework, however, the number awarded by each teacher is not consistent. Miss Street said that she would discuss this with Junior teachers to ensure consistency across the school. They would also like to see a homework club set up at lunchtime for the children to go to if they wish.
- Mrs Robinson explained that in June, members of the Maths Team will run a parent workshop all about PA Maths, which will help parents in supporting their child with maths home learning.

## AOB

- One parent asked about the rationale for closing the schools for snow days. Mrs Robinson explained that there are a number of factors which are taken into consideration and discussion is held between SLT and site management staff early each morning. The school has to consider the number of staff who can get to school, particularly those who live a further distance away. The site itself is inspected to assess whether it is safe enough for staff, parents and children to access. The weather and temperature is also considered as the freezing temperatures can be dangerous to drive and walk in. All this combined is then used to make an informed decision about the school's closure. Other parents were happy with this explanation and understood the reasons. They also thanked the school for letting parents know early in the morning (by 7am). Some parents did explain that if clubs are cancelled, then they would like to know the reason why.
- Some parents requested the dates for the INSETs for the next academic year. It was explained that these haven't been approved by Directors yet, however, once they were it would be communicated out to parents straight away. They asked whether it would be possible to have the INSET days for the calendar year in January (as opposed to an academic year), so that summer holidays can be planned for well in advance.
- The use of the swimming pool was discussed and whether there was any possibility that a cover or roof could be put over it to make full use of it throughout the year which could bring in an additional income to the school. A member of the PTFA explained that they had looked into this, however, the foundations of the pool do not allow for a cover to be put over it. The PTFA are applying for a grant through the Co-op to re-decorate the changing rooms and purchase a new cover.
- One parent mentioned whether the area alongside the swimming pool could be used as an allotment area. Miss Street explained that this area is now being generally maintained by site maintenance to allow for it to be developed into an allotment area and a gardening club to be run with some children. This would be led by a teacher in the Summer Term.
- One Reception parent explained that the new intake parents did not receive a copy of the calendar dates with the newsletter once their child started and therefore did not have the key events in their calendar. They suggested that a copy of this could go into the starter pack.

The meeting finished at 9.40am.