

Parent Forum meeting on Thursday 15th March 2018

Attending

9 Parents

Mark Ellis – Governor

The parents received a presentation from Mr van de Wiel about the approach to Times Tables at Knollmead and the use of methods followed in some countries in East Asia which has proven to be very successful. He also highlighted the new 144 Club that has been introduced.

Parents were given a handout and invited to ask Mr van de Wiel questions.

One parent raised that she was unsure about the maths learning which is taking place in Reception class and what her child was achieving when using Mathletics website. Mr van de Wiel directed her to the school website where she could find Curriculum Learning Grids for each class. He explained that the grids contain information about the areas covered in class including maths topics. Mr Tan will look into whether Mathletics produces any reports for parents.

Action Mr Tan

Another parents asked if the table showing the differences in the method of learning tables used by Shanghai maths could be added to the website or sent home.

Action Mr van de Wiel

Mr Tan explained that a great deal of work had already taken place around using the Mastery approach to maths and that the school was seeing great results already with Knollmead having made the best progress in Key Stage 2 in the borough.

Mr Tan thanked Mr van de Wiel for his presentation and explained that Mr van de Wiel will always be happy to help with any information parents need.

Parents were encouraged to take a copy of the handout prepared by Mr van de Wiel home and complete a parent survey before leaving.

Sarah Terrey from the KFA (Knollmead Family Association) then spoke about the wonderful work carried out by the KFA and explained that new members were always sought after and welcomed. She spoke about the events which the KFA had recently run to help raise funds towards the purchase of a school minibus. These included: the Christmas Fair, the recent school disco and the "Make a Mother's' Day gift" event as well as the ongoing cake sales each Friday.

She explained that there would be more events being held in the future and to look out for details of these.

If parents were interested in joining the KFA they should contact the school office in the first instance.

Mr Tan then went through the minutes and actions from the last Parent Forum held on 3/11/18 - please see notes below:

Phonics videos are now on the school website under the parent section, following a parental request at the last parent forum for support in helping their children with phonics. Further videos will be added.

One of the areas discussed previously had been homework and, that at that time, some parents had felt there not to be enough homework given, whilst others had suggested that there was too much

homework. Subsequently changes had been made to homework to provide the option of additional tasks covering various curriculum areas. **Recent parents questionnaires completed at parents' evening showed an increase from 81% to 92% of parents 'strongly agreeing' or 'agreeing' that their child received appropriate homework for their age.** Mr Tan explained that it is difficult to always find the right balance but that the school would continue to make every effort to work with parents and take on board suggestions to improve this further.

Another area that had been raised was the provision of extra-curricular activities. Mr Tan asked if there were any after or before school clubs the parents would be interested in seeing at school. The following suggestions were made:

- A football club for younger years
- An Art/craft Club
- A dance Club
- A music/instrument club.

Mr Tan said that he would take these into consideration and enquire with more external providers.

Action Mr Tan

Mr Tan highlighted the introduction of attendance rewards. He explained to encourage good attendance children would be receiving rewards including whole class Mufti days for those with the best attendance. He said that an attendance board would also be used in the playground. More information about this would follow shortly.

Mr Tan asked if there were any other matters parents would like to raise.

A parent asked if it would be possible for Parents to be given more notice when children were expected to 'dress up' for school?

Mr Tan said that it would. He also explained that for the Sport Relief Day next Friday children could wear their own clothes but with a red, white and blue theme or dress as their favourite sports person.

A parent asked if there were reading rewards given to the children.

Mr Tan explained that each class teachers gave out specific rewards for reading within their class.

Mr Tan was asked about the Spellodrome and Athletics logins for Reception children. He undertook to speak to Miss Doyle about this and ensure they were sent out.

Action Mr Tan

A parent asked about the Easter Bonnet parade and asked if it was compulsory for the children to take part.

Mr Tan explained that the parade would take place but it would not be compulsory for the children to make a bonnet.