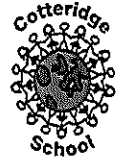


Parent Forum Newsletter

26.02.19



Thank you to parents who regularly share constructive ideas and opinions both within the forum and at other times through the year. Our meetings are informal and provide the opportunity for parents to share their views on selected topics. We very much value your thoughts and opinions.

The Aim of Parent Voice

Our aim is to foster close communication with parents and ensure that parents' opinions and ideas are included in our strategies to make our good school even better.

The Role of Parent Voice

The role of parent voice is consultative and advisory. The Governing Body remains responsible for the strategic leadership of the school. The Parent Forum is not a channel for individual complaints. These should be addressed to school leaders in accordance with school policy.

26/02/19 Notes of Meeting - Discussion Focus: The Curriculum

Mr. Leonard introduced the meeting by stating how the school's vision of '*Achieving Excellence, Inspiring Dreams*' is underpinned by a rich and exciting curriculum. The primary curriculum is dictated by law and includes the following subjects: English, Maths, Science, Art and Design, Computing, Design and Technology, Languages, Geography, History, Music, P.E. and R.E. Although not statutory, Personal, Social and Health Education (P.S.H.E.) is also taught at Cotteridge. Schools have an element of influence over how planning for each subject is shaped, hence the curriculum evolves over time. We are now auditing the quality of education within each subject in order to ensure that what children learn is to the highest quality. We also want to ensure that sufficient time is dedicated to teach each subject well.

Key Points:

- Parents say that their children talk about some subjects more than others. Some parents are unaware of all the separate subjects being taught. It was agreed that this may be because children often talked about subjects that they especially enjoy. Some point out that they know exactly what is being taught because it is on the class pages of the school website.
- A discussion took place about each individual subject on the primary curriculum. Leaders described how each subject is timetabled, planned and coverage of each subject across the school. Not all parents know that each subject has a member of staff that leads it. In some instances, parents are not able to name which teachers led which subjects.
- Parents agree that the Key Stage 1 Forest School programmes are worthwhile and should not be sacrificed to spend more time teaching traditional subjects.
- Parents say that their children speak with great enthusiasm about Arts Week and Science Week. All agree that these should remain a part of the school calendar.
- Parents agree that educational visits organised to compliment class topics, enhance their children's learning.

Senior Leadership Team Notes: Thank you so much to parents who shared and sent in opinions. It is clear that the level of parental understanding about which subjects the children learn and when, is varied. Therefore:

1. We shall better endeavour to raise awareness of the curriculum information which is provided on the school website, within each class page.
2. We shall introduce a regular feature on the school newsletter, where subject leaders can introduce their subject and provide a brief summary of developments and activities.
3. We shall ensure that Arts and Science week continue and seek further ways to promote individual subjects through whole school activities.

Once again, a big thank you to those who share their opinions and ideas and support school improvement. It is useful for us to have confirmation that what we are doing is well received and we shall continue to work diligently to make our good school even better!

Thank you!

Achieving Excellence

Inspiring Dreams