

Parents' Voice meeting – Term 6 – 10 July 2018

The main focus of the meeting was a discussion about behaviour, and how our community can work together to promote positive behaviour.

19 parents attended. Hannah Pepper (Governor) chaired the meeting; other staff members attending were Ruth and Fatoumata, also Mr Cook.

<p>New toddler group at Hannah More</p>	<p>Helen Leckie visited the meeting. She has a child starting in Reception in September. She explained that she will be starting a new parent and toddler group at Hannah More, starting on 17th September. This will run on Monday mornings from 9-11 and will be open to all local parents with a pre-school child. As well as toys and snacks, there will be a messy play activity each week as well as songs and stories – all for just £1 per family per week. The group will be called 'Apple Tots'. We are really looking forward to this new adventure!</p>
<p>Possible new extension to the community room</p>	<p>Ruth explained that as a school we have submitted a bid for £90,000 funding from the 'Community Infrastructure Levy'. This is a charge that the local authority makes to companies who are building new developments in the area. The money is then used to support infrastructure that local communities want. The money would pay for an extension to our existing community room, providing a crèche, new entrance, new kitchen and toilet. Ruth invited any interested parents to contact her to find out more and get involved. Watch this space!</p>
<p>Positive behaviour at Hannah More</p>	<p>Hannah Pepper posed the question: 'How can we work together as a community to promote positive behaviour?'</p> <p>Mr Cook explained that as a class teacher he never used to go outside at lunchtime, but that some children would come back at 1.30 and say that their lunchtime had been terrible – so in his head he thought there must be some real problems at lunchtime. He explained that since he has been supporting lunchtimes outside on a regular basis (along with other senior staff) he has changed his mind. Mr Cook explained that he sees the vast majority of children playing sensibly, enjoying themselves and being safe and respectful to others.</p> <p>Mr Cook explained that there is a new system at lunchtime. There is a colour system, whereby children may get a golden tick or golden points for positive lunchtimes. If children don't follow the expectations, they are given a yellow point. This might be when they are not following adult instructions, or not using equipment properly. If they continue to make wrong choices they will get a red point, which means they are then sent inside to Ms Ramsay's office for the rest of their lunchtime.</p> <p>Mr Cook explained that teachers are informed if any children have been given points, and that Ms Ramsay also tells teachers which children have been inside with her at lunchtime.</p> <p>Mr Cook explained that Ms Ramsay's role is to supervise any children who are sent in, in her office. She gives them advice and strategies. Mr Webster also has a set group of children who spend lunchtimes with him. This is a specific group of children who find lunchtimes too difficult to manage well. Their lunchtime club is not a punishment; it is an opportunity for them to have a positive and happy time.</p> <p>A parent asked if this small group of children have an opportunity to expend energy, as their lunchtimes are always spent indoors. Hannah said she would</p>

	<p>take this back to governors. Mr Cook said that lunchtime club offers quite a free space, and whilst it may not be ideal, the children who attend have much happier lunchtimes and more positive afternoons.</p> <p>Mr Cook said since this new system was introduced he has had many fewer complaints from children about lunchtimes.</p> <p>The meeting acknowledged the great work that Fatoumata and the lunchtime team do. Many thanks to them.</p>
Questions and points raised by parents	<p>A parent said that she felt behaviour in school is not just a lunchtime issue but also in classes and around the school generally. She expressed her concern that her child is not safe or happy. She explained that she has raised concerns previously with senior staff but has not seen any difference. She asked what the school's policies and strategies are. Hannah Pepper agreed to meet the parent and explore this in more details, including looking at school policies and exploring their effectiveness.</p>
	<p>A parent described an issue she had had with her child; he had experienced some bullying but this was dealt with by senior staff and there has been no reoccurrence. She emphasised how important communication with the school had been.</p>
Summary	<p>Hannah Pepper thanked Fatoumata and Mr Cook for their input. She thanked everyone for coming and explained that there is much more to say and do on this subject. She acknowledged that sometimes it is the bad news that gets repeated whilst happier news stays unreported. She asked parents to speak to children before our next meeting, simply to ask: What did you do at lunchtime today?</p>
	<p>A final question was asked about the Cathedral Schools Trust; what was the current position and could joining the trust mean more support for improving behaviour in school?</p> <p>Hannah Pepper explained that the consultation process was ongoing and that there was a further meeting this afternoon.</p>

Hannah Pepper thanked parents for their constructive and positive contributions.

The next meeting will be in term 1 when points raised will be revisited.