



MINUTES: Portfields Together – Parent Voice Meeting

Date: 9th March 2023

Time: 9-10am (approx.) and 6-7pm (approx.)

Attendees: Sarah Folkard (Headteacher), Jack Dixon (Deputy Headteacher), Laura Dolan (Assistant Headteacher),

Esme Chu (Governor) and parents

Number:	Topic:	Details:
1.	Welcome	Sarah Folkard welcome and set expectations for the session.
2.	Purpose of 'Portfields Together'	Following feedback from the parents evening questionnaires; we have created a 'Portfields Together' event where we would like to encourage our families to get involved as a valued voice. The idea is to share personal ideas and thoughts on a particular topic whilst trying to consider a whole school approach.
3.	Parents evening feedback and communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Communication: We have now created a 'Portfields Post', once a week email, to reduce the volume of ParentMails sent. - 'Portfields Post': Positives: consolidates information, much better, liked the new system, helpful and easily read. Negatives: sometimes can miss the email, would like a brief summary of a weekly subject learnt to be added rather than a larger end of term newsletter. - Newsletters: to go out end the end of half term for each Year group.
4.	Behaviour	<p>Positive behaviour is promoted at all times and the 'behaviour policy' is available to view on the website.</p> <p>Be Ready, Be Respectful and Be Safe are our core values.</p> <p>Our focus is on praise and the children making positive choices. The behaviour policy outlines sanctions too.</p>



INSET day will involve reviewing our behaviour policy and discussing this policy with staff.

Activity (discuss our current behaviour policy):

Positives:

- Dojo system encourages positive behaviour (work hard to get a reward, encourages reading and homework at home too).
- Portfields Star assembly encourages good behaviour and builds confidence, a great opportunity to show their families of their hard work.
- Encourages working together when an issue arises. Support is available and children feel comfortable to cope with any fears and concerns.
- Social clubs ensure the child feels valued, it's a great club.
- Children are never told they have been 'naughty', encouraged to make the 'right choices'.
- VIP reward and taking the register is a highlight for children.
- Educates pupils of 'bullying' as a repeated bad choice.
- Parental involvement and allegations are taken seriously.
- Policy helps create strong parental relationships.
- Well-being team set up and discussed how to encourage speaking out to look after others, making the right choices.
- Good behaviour is promoted; rewards should not always be a material prize.
- Yellow and red card system works well and is visual for the younger children.
- Table movements is positive and encourages mixing with others (varies friendships too).
- School Council – proud of the school and proud to represent.
- SEN support is strong and transitioning to the next year group promotes high expectations.
- Noticed children complimenting others and being respectful.

Improvements:



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Would like more time to discuss the children and any behavioural incidents at parents evening. - Rewarding to have a group award rather than just an individual one. - More encouragement for pupils to speak out and discuss an issue. - More preparation for children to encourage others to make the right choices. - Notification of the reason of the VIP award (children sometimes unaware). - Dojo not consistent across the school, more suitable for KS1. - Carry Dojos over to the next year. - To promote good behaviour on a larger scale could there be a class Dojo reward rather than individual Dojo rewards? <p>Additional behaviour plans are in place for certain pupils. Negative behaviour is recorded and escalated as necessary. Class charts and going to be considered – both positive and negative points can be awarded with parental notifications.</p>
5.	Homework	<p>Homework feedback – lots of different parental opinions on how much, if any, homework should be set. Homework is not statutory in Primary Schools. We are trying to find the best solution to work for the majority of our families.</p> <p>Activity (discuss homework):</p> <p>Positives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Given plenty of time to complete tasks. - Engages us as a whole family. - Loves TT Rockstars. - Interactive homework. - CPG books (year 5 and 6 children) are great. - Alternative weeks work well with subjects.



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prepares the children well for secondary school. - Knowing which subject is due, with clear deadlines. <p>Improvements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More fun and interactive homework tasks. - Feedback provided from marked homework. - Homework to be consistent across all year groups. Some year groups don't seem to get any homework (Yr4), some year groups don't seem to get homework marked (Yr2). - Additional (unmarked) activities on the website for families that would like to do more at home together. - More resources or links to provide additional information for parents if they need help with assisting their child. - Year 3 no Maths homework (only English provided). - Ensure homework isn't newly learnt work, as a parent there have been occasions where I have had to teach myself something to then teach my child something as the homework hasn't been taught in class. - Homework club set up (parents and children)? - More of a focus on English homework. - Consider balance of test practice and other homework, more practice further in advance to spread it out and improve well-being. - Encouragement of additional homework tasks, involving writing own stories. - Communicate more quickly with parents if there are issues with homework or if homework is not being handed in.
6.	What's next	<p>Two more additional meetings this academic year.</p> <p>Next topic ideas discussed: enrichment opportunities, uniform and equipment requirements, music opportunities, SEND, facilities, creative and science curriculum and local opportunities to work within the community.</p>
7.	Any other discussions:	<p>Class Dojo to remain a point system, not a communication pathway.</p> <p>Consider Dojo amounts during the last two weeks of the academic year.</p>



		<p>Doop prizes: other prizes to be considered to motivate older year groups, for example, an extra break, lunch with a member of staff or going on a trip.</p> <p>8.45am low amounts of staff to assist with any incidents, have more staff presence at drop off and pick up times. Can the school provide additional supervision?</p> <p>Are other resources or platforms available rather than ParentMail or Class Dojo? Is it possible to use another platform which could monitor the percentage of families who read the notifications?</p> <p>Bikes and scooters still being used on school grounds.</p> <p>A big thank you from a parent to all staff for providing a safe and happy environment.</p>
--	--	--