

## PARENT CLASS REPRESENTATIVE MEETING

24<sup>th</sup> October 2024

### Attendees:

Mrs Morris- Headteacher

Mr Haughey- Acting Deputy Headteacher



Eastway Explorers	Vacancy	-
Nursery	Gemma Kelly	x
Reception	Laura McKeown	Apologies (notes sent in)
Year 1	Jess Beech	/
Year 2	Sarah Bishton	Apologies
Year 3	Victoria Davies	/
Year 4	Jemma Griffiths	x
Year 5	Vacancy	-
Year 6	Diane Foulds	x
Base Provision	Gemma Jones	x

### Discussion

- Talked about the purpose of the meetings and the importance of sharing information and having open communication between families and the school leadership team to share positive points, resolve any issues and look at ways we can work together to continue to make Eastway amazing for our children, families and community.
- Concerns about Parent WhatsApp chat groups. Some families have not always found these to be positive and can really 'whip' people up and not get issues resolved. School are concerned that raising negative feedback, concerns or discussing specific staff/issues can be really unhelpful and not reflective of how we pride ourselves on working with families. Many staff have been really upset to hear that they are being spoken about on social media and this is not ok. School feel that the best way to get issues resolved are to discuss together. When things are spoken about via social media (including group chats) it is unfair that we are not able to respond. Parents agreed that the groups can sometimes get quite negative and become unhelpful. Parents felt the groups were great for sharing reminders and gathering feedback for Parent Class Reps etc but issues with school or about their individual children should be brought to school to deal with.
- Discussion about the concerns raised by Reception families. Parents in the meeting felt the gate system is well managed and the best option for a calm start for children, keeping everyone safe and letting the teachers get on with teaching and settling the children in class in the morning. All agreed that it might not work for some individual children but that plans can be put into place to help those families while still sticking to the decision.

### Positives:

- Some individual praise for particular members of staff who have really helped children (Mrs M will pass these on).
- Praise postcards, the children love receiving these and bring them home, especially the new fancy ones!
- The recognition cards are being very much enjoyed by parents. They really appreciate reading what their child has been recognised for. Thank you.
- Swimming Pool. Children really enjoyed the sessions in school and lots of positive feedback and thanks on this.
- Children were really excited about the Halloween disco and parents love these events for the children.

- Children have settled well in their new classes.
- Like seeing different staff on the gates like leadership team and SENCo so they can ask questions and say hello.

#### Feedback for Improvement

- Parents Evening was great but younger children only got a Stay and Play (they loved that) but didn't get time to properly speak to teacher.
- Parents Evening- sticking to the times, lots of teachers ran over time and it was a long time to wait.
- Social media- some families choose not to have their children photos on X or Facebook so would like school to consider different ways of sharing photos.
- Curriculum days - parents feel they don't get to know much about what happens in class. They would like some sharing experiences, stay and plays are great for early years and could something like that be done in other classes? A chance to come in to see children showcasing their work or doing a little presentation of what they've been doing.
- Seeing pupils' books - parents understanding why this didn't happen in this first parents' evening and that the spring parents' evening will be an opportunity to look at books and see the classroom but wondered if there was another way to see what they're doing.
- Parents felt clubs are very repetitive, need variety and for those who are not sporty and more information about what the club is. They would like more creative and hands on things that would interest their children like gardening club - growing things, taking plants home, growing sunflowers, cooking, art and craft (but not making rubbish or just doing colouring).
- Parents like the newsletters and updates but still feel communication could be better. They need lots of notice for events, especially if they are working and it can feel unfair if they can't attend.
- Staffing instability - parents and children have been upset with changes of staff. They know this is difficult when staff are unwell or needed in different parts of school. Mrs Morris reassured parents about any changes and how these are managed for children in school but are often unavoidable.

#### Next steps

- Dates of next meetings and focus for each meeting to be shared.
- Minutes of meeting today shared with all families.
- The Terms of Reference for the Parent Class Rep Meetings shared so everyone is clear on what the meet is about.

Concern Raised	Action & Resolution
Parent WhatsApp Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Parent Class Reps to monitor the groups and set some boundaries and expectations for the group.</li> <li>- Feedback at next meeting.</li> <li>- Mrs Morris to send a reminder to families about communicating, raising concerns with school and the use of social media.</li> </ul>
Reception Gate Concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Parents felt this is a safe and sensible process and agree with the decision made by the school and it should be upheld.</li> <li>- Mrs Morris to let teachers know to contact families of children who may find the change difficult, set up transition plans and offer further support.</li> </ul>
Sharing Photos with Families (not on social media)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mrs Morris to gather feedback from staff and look at options available that would not cause additional workload.</li> <li>- Parent Class Reps to gather feedback from families on how they think this could work and some different options to discuss at the next meeting.</li> </ul>
Showcasing Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mrs Morris to speak to teachers about planning in an end of half term event were families are invited in.</li> <li>- Spring parents' evening sharing books with families from 2:30pm.</li> <li>- Parent Class Reps to gather more feedback from families.</li> </ul>

Parents' Evening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mrs Morris to remind teachers to stick to timing and leadership team to monitor on the night to avoid the backlog.</li> <li>- Reception to offer face to face individual appointments in Spring Term.</li> </ul>
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- School to look at some different ways of sharing key events and reminders.</li> <li>- School office to send out 'What's On' each week and share on social media.</li> <li>- Mrs Morris to remind class teacher to book in all visits, visitors and enrichment activities for the year so these can be shared with families well ahead of time.</li> <li>- Parent Class Reps to gather more feedback for next meeting.</li> </ul>
Clubs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr Haughey to meet with school council to ask what clubs they want.</li> <li>- Mrs Morris to ask if any family member has any talents and interests and they could run a club.</li> <li>- Mrs Morris to look at funding to bring some experts in to run clubs.</li> <li>- Mrs Thomas to look at sport clubs and make sure there is a wide range across the year.</li> <li>- Subject leaders to lead a club on their subject to give them opportunities to learning more e.g art.</li> </ul>

Next Meetings:

Date & Times	Focus
3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2024 9am	Our Curriculum What & How Children are taught
24 <sup>th</sup> January 2025 2:30pm	Behaviour Update
17 <sup>th</sup> March 2025 9am	Family Engagement- new ideas for working together
8 <sup>th</sup> May 2025 2.30pm	Home Learning
25 <sup>th</sup> June 2025 9.15am	Review of School Year and ideas for next year