

Thorndown Primary School - Parent Forum Minutes
Monday 9th May 2016

Present: Heather Wood (Chair), Rob Jagger (Governor) Vicci Godbold (Head teacher), Claire Gerrard (Deputy), Russell Burgess, Cathy Sweet, Clare Lorman-Hall,

Apologies: Amanda Mumford, Georgina Pope

1. Introductions and welcome by Heather Wood

2. Key topic - Mastery in Mathematics

Due to changes in the curriculum and a shift in philosophy, the way in which mathematics is taught is changing.

Thorndown is leading the way in this development because Mrs Gerrard has been invited to participate in the Maths Hub. Thorndown is one of only 4 primary schools in the County to be in the hub.

Mastery in mathematics is not about children who are more able – the expectation is that everyone should be able to reach the standard. The philosophy is that the whole class moves together and in order to do this, some pre-teaching and catch up sessions are held to ensure all children have mastered the topic.

The curriculum is all about the depth of understanding and securing knowledge rather than the breadth or quantity of knowledge. The ability to reason about a concept and make connections is critical.

The shift in philosophy is based on research about improving the skills gap in the UK. The ability to create critical thinkers who can reason and draw conclusions is seen as key to meeting the future needs of industry and business.

All parents agreed that the presentation and topic were extremely informative and would welcome the opportunity for the topic to be repeated to a larger audience in future if possible.

3. AOB

Concerns were raised about the amount of information that is being sent out to parents. Ms Godbold reminded parents that the correspondence sent out on a Wednesday is classed as 'Items of Interest' - items that are not essential and can be discarded if parents do not wish to view them. The Friday email containing 'Items of Importance' is the email that is most pertinent to the school and one that parents are encouraged to read.

Mrs Pope is currently testing some sample school uniform suppliers and is going to feedback the results to Mrs Cooper. She is currently washing and drying various samples to help determine which suppliers will be used in future.

4. Forward Agenda

Special Educational Needs (for June meeting)
Review of the year and vision (for Sept)

5. Date of Next Meeting – **Weds 8th June, 7.30pm**

All parents are members of the parent forum and are welcome to attend the meetings. If you cannot attend but wish to raise an issue you can email parentforum@thorndown.cambs.sch.uk post a note in the suggestion box in the lobby or raise it with your class representative.