**Ash Croft Primary School**

**Parent Forum**

**Minutes of meeting held on 19th October 2017**

**Attended by: Penny Brown (Executive Headteacher), V. Blackwood, L. Blackwood, L.Leung, A Warburton, J. Ikpomwosa**

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| **Discussion Point** | **Notes** |
| **1. Forest Schools** | What is forest school about?  PB explained that children in FS2 would access Forest School which is an inspirational process, that offers all learners regular opportunities to achieve and develop confidence and self-esteem through hands-on learning experiences in a woodland or natural environment with trees.  A question was asked about safety and walking to Redwood Park.  PB explained that all staff are DBS checked and have appropriate training. The children are accompanied by school staff. PB described the route that is taken to reassure parents. |
| **2. Parental Engagement** | Why do more parents not attend parents forum or other school events?  Parents do not always feel comfortable coming into school, PB reassured parents that all parents are welcome and we actively encourage parents to attend school as volunteers, part of the PTA or to attend workshops and other school events.  In our newsletters and on the website we let parents know what events are planned and to encourage them to attend. |
| **3. Academisation** | PB explained the academisation process, timeline and consultation process with parents.  Parents commented that the letter circulated to parents, did not clearly show dates and times of the meetings for the consultation.  PB said that the letters and the FAQ’s were on the website. |
| **4. Parents Waiting Area** | At previous parent forum meetings and through communication directly with parents it has been brought up about the limited waiting area at the front of the school for parents. The area is being tarmaced during the half term holiday to create additional hard standing. |
| **5. Workshops** | PB asked parents if they would appreciate workshops being held to explain methods of teaching so that parents can support their children at home – It was agreed that maths and English workshops would be useful for parents and sessions for parents to work with their children under the direction of teachers. |
| **6. Lockdown** | PB explained the Lockdown procedure to parents and all felt it was necessary. PB reassured parents that it would be introduced to children without making it a frightening experience |
| **7. Lunches** | A parent raised a concern that the lunches were not of a high enough standard and that portions were not big enough.  PB reassured parents that school had a lot of positive feedback from the children about lunches and felt that the food was of a very good standard with a lot of choice available.  PB invited parents to come into school to sample lunches with their children. |

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| **YOU SAID** | **WE DID** |
| * More hard standing for parents at the front of school * Parents said they didn’t know the governors * Parents concerned about parking at the front of school | * Area at front of school being tarmaced during half term * Governors sent out a governors newsletter introducing themselves * School contacted the local police to ask for a police presence at the end of the day |