 The James Cambell Primary School

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Head Teacher: Mrs. V Gray

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Dear Parents / Carers

Re: Parent View Meetings

Thank you to all of the parents who took part in the ‘Parent View’ meetings through September, October and November. Your view points are really important to the development of our school and ultimately impact the learning of your children. We were so pleased that so many parents and carers gave up their afternoons to participate in the meetings – your honesty and suggestions are invaluable.

During the meetings we asked for some suggestions about how to make life here at James Cambell Primary School even better. In groups we looked at several areas – these included:

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| We asked.  | You said | What we did | What Action we took  |
| Is your child happy at school? | In general the majority of the groups who met said their child is happy in school.  | Through discussion in assemblies and in classes – we spoke to the children and asked what we could do to make their lives at James Cambell Primary School even better. They asked us for more playground equipment and for adults to play with them during play times and lunch times.  | We listened and have ensured both playgrounds are fully equipped with new equipment and that staff have or are having training to support the children during play time and lunch time. We are engaging London Play to train and develop lunchtimes to ensure all children get a positive and nurturing experience |
| Does your child feel safe at school? | The majority of parents and carers felt the children did feel safe – as the gates were closed and the doors were all locked.  | We spoke to a collection of children across the school and asked them the same question. They told us they did not like that people looking through the school railings or that they could shout things at them.  | We listened and have put up fences behind the railings to ensure all children feel secure and have privacy in their playgrounds. We have also put up multiple ‘How to Keep Safe Boards’. We have also put up a poster of all the Designated Safeguards Leads in the school for children to know who to go to if they have concerns. We have put up posters of all the Qualified First Aiders in the school for children to know who they can approach if they need assistance. We have also delivered focused assemblies in school to ensure children know how to keep safe and the adults in school they can approach if they feel worried.  |
| How could we improve behaviours in our school? | The majority of the parents and carers thought the behaviours in the school were good. However, at times when the children (Year Five and Six) were leaving school they would block the gates making it difficult for parents to enter the school.  | We spoke to the children and asked how their behaviours could become amazing in the playground and around the school. The children in upper school agreed at times this did happen. | We listened and have ensured there is at least two adults on the door or in the playground at the end of the school day to ensure the children who walk home independently leave safely and go straight home.  |
| Do you think the school deals with incidents of bullying in the school quickly and effectively? | In the main most parents felt any concerns were dealt with effectively. However, some though that having a main point of contact would minimise any anxieties parents / carers may have.  | As a school team we discussed how we could minimise anxieties for both pupils and parents. We decided to look at our behaviours policy and think about how children are rewarded. We also agreed to work with families in our school community and asked them to come up with the core values of the school.  | We listened and have reviewed our Positive Behaviour Policy and written an Anti-Bullying Strategy which are all available on our new website. We have also made children aware of the expected behaviours and the sanctions should they fall short on meeting the desired behaviours. We also agreed the 5 core values which children and their families chose and for each an assembly to explain the values. We have also ensured these values are visible around the school as reminders to the children.  |
| What could the school do to make you more aware of what my child will learn during the year? | Parents and Carers wanted to know when trips and ‘dress down / dress up days’ would be taking place. You also wanted to understand what children would be learning and when trips would be. The majority felt that it would be really good to put information on the internet linked to the Year Group.  | As a school team we looked at how we notified parents about the learning in our school and how effective the communication of this was.  | We listened and agreed with the ‘Parent View Groups’ – we have now loaded the information on to our new website – both pictorially and written. New Website: http://www.jamescambell.com/ |
| When you have concerns – are these concerns dealt with effectively? | Parents were generally happy that concerns were dealt with effectively. A few Year Three parents wanted the school to send out the homework on the same day for all classes. They also wanted the ‘Read, Write, Cover and check spelling sheets to be sent home.  | We spoke to the Year Three Team and agreed the day when homework would be sent and returned and what format it would take.  | We listened and all homework goes out on the same day in the agreed format. Mr Kvak is responsible for issuing all Mathematics homework in Year Three and Miss O’Regan is responsible for issuing the spelling homework. To date parental feedback has been positive. We have also focused on reading for the whole school and pupils and parents are supporting the focus by hearing their children read every night and we have reciprocated by signing and commenting in the reading diaries. |
| How could we improve the outcomes of your children in our school?  | Parents / Carers of children in Years One and Two felt their children were being challenged and the homework linked to the curriculum being taught. They also thought the spellings were appropriate but wanted to see the results of tests to ensure they could further support their children. In Years Three and Four wanted to ensure that there was continuity in all classes in relation to homework and expectation. Year Five and Year Six wanted the school to notify them early in the year if there was concerns with their child’s learning.  | As a Senior Leadership Team we looked at when and how we inform parents of academic issues related to their child. Year Three and Four issues related to homework and expectation – this has been resolved and new processes have been put in place. We agreed that Year Five and Year Six parents / carers needed to know how their children were getting on throughout the year – sooner rather than later.  | We listened and have been having meetings with parents in Year Six along with their children about how we can work in collaboration to ensure we are working to a common goal – to ensure the children have every opportunity to be successful learners. Mr Hamilton and Mrs Gray have completed the first two rounds of meetings with Year Six. Fifty Two parents were invited in to discuss targets and where they could help their children develop the knowledge needed to assist them in being successful with SATs in May. Parents were signposted to websites, given questions to ask when reading with their children and passwords for ‘My Maths’ given to support children with the number aspect of Mathematics. This will continue in to January and Year Five meeting will take place during the Summer Term.  |
| How does the school support your child’s wider personal development? | Parents and carers of children in KS1 wanted more before / after school clubs for their children. In KS2 parents were happy in the main with the clubs we provide and felt that their children got a lot out of them. They asked for more clubs that would cater for children who did not like physical games such as football and athletics.  | As a school we rely on the goodwill of our teachers to undertake clubs before and after school. A lot of our teachers give up their time to benefit the children who attend the clubs. We recognize we could do more.  | We listened and have employed a sports coach to support children in the morning, afternoon lunchtime session and afterschool. The person employed works with children who find it difficult the engage in ball games and team games – this has been a success. We have also asked our whole school team if they would put more clubs on over the Spring and Summer terms. We will let you all know in due course what clubs will be available and when.  |
| I would recommend this school to another parent.  | Parents in general said they would recommend our school to others. They felt that we were a caring school and the teachers and leaders of the school took time to get to know their families and were always willing to help and resolve issues should they arise.  |
| How could we improve the communication to parents and carers? | Parents were not as happy as they could have been with communication. They felt at times some classes received information and some did not. They were unhappy with letters not going home on time or when the class teacher was not in the class the supply teacher did not always send the letters out with the children. Parent / carers advised they would prefer texts unless it was important such as when their child had hurt themselves, they would then prefer a phone call.  | We looked at the letters going out on a daily basis in both lower and upper school and agreed there were a lot of letters going out when a simple text would have served the same purpose.  | We listened and we are sending more texts to parents and carers; reminding them of events, asking for parental support, advising of changes to parents evening and inviting parents to celebrations and workshops. The feedback has been great – parents are now updating telephone numbers to ensure the office has the relevant details.  |

We hope you find all of this information useful and know that we always have the children’s best interests at the heart of everything we do. If you would like to discuss anything that we have missed from the above list, please do not hesitate to make an appointment with Mr Hamilton (Deputy Head Teacher) – he will be pleased to assist in any way he can.

We would also like to mention that some parents in Year Six were trying to build family links during the Autumn Term. They wanted to meet in order to support each other through what can be a difficult year for some parents. We thought this was a great idea and arranged a coffee morning – however, the uptake was limited. We have therefore arranged another afternoon to entice parents / carers of Year Six children to come along and support each other.

We will follow up on the actions we have taken in January and February – and parents / carers will have the opportunity to give feedback and make further suggestions as to how we can work in collaboration to further enhance the school for the children.

Assuring you of our best intentions always.

Mrs Victoria Gray

Head Teacher