



## GREATWOOD COMMUNITY PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

### Parents in Partnership Forum Minutes 6<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Mrs Marshall was delighted to hold Greatwood's first Parents in Partnership Forum of the academic year 2022-2023. This was an opportunity to welcome parents into school to meet with Mrs Marshall and share our thoughts and ideas about different aspects of school life.

At the Forum, we updated parents on:

- The successes of the previous school year, 2021-2022 and all the amazing opportunities and learning that has been taking place
- How the school year has started and is progressing in Autumn Term 1.
- The key development priorities of the school for 2022-2023

The content of the points above is outlined in the presentation for this meeting which can be accessed on the Parents Forum page of the school website.

We talked about our bespoke Outdoor Ed programme and how successful parents consider it to be. All parents present, of children who had experienced this, spoke very highly of the opportunities the children access through this learning. One parent also commented how their child had continued to develop their interest in the outdoors once they had finished the Outdoor Ed programme and had undertaken other clubs and activities to develop this interest.

Parents also shared how much they liked the new Homework Projects that children engage with each half term. They liked the flexibility they offered and the opportunity to be individual and creative in their interpretation of the tasks. They also praised the Hall of Fame where parents and children can view examples of other children's projects and learning.

We also discussed Maths teaching which continues to be a key focus for development this year at Greatwood. Mrs Marshall shared how lessons are being developed to provide high quality Maths learning across all year groups.

Following the consideration of the school successes, parents highlighted some areas of development which they feel school could improve on.

- Outdoor Ed: One parent felt that for Y2 going straight into the Outdoor Ed programme in September was a little overwhelming as they were just getting used to their new class teacher, classroom and routines. In addition, parents would like children to come home with their coats after each session.
- Homework Projects: Parents have noticed that if their child is on Outdoor Ed then sometimes, they have not covered the work in order to complete the tasks. Mrs Marshall acknowledged that this was a valid point and something we would look into and explained to parents how to overcome this. Mrs

Marshall also pointed out that the children do not miss out on learning due to Outdoor Ed, all children cover the same work irrespective of which group they are in.

- Library: Parents wondered how children accessed the library currently. Mrs Marshall explained that there were no formal timetables for this. Mrs Marshall suggested that we could look into making sure children had regular opportunities to visit and borrow books from the library.
- Attendance: A parent was disappointed that their child's attendance letter contained data that was incorrect. It was acknowledged that an apology was sent but it was suggested that this is something that did not reflect positively on the school.
- Admissions: There was a question regarding how to apply for a place in Reception. Information was shared and parents signposted to staff members who could help them with this.
- Greatwood Grocery: This new development for 2022-2023 was discussed and a question was raised about how it would be run, as a business or as a social enterprise. Mrs Marshall did not have the answer to this question in the meeting but after further enquiries learned that the grocery will be run as a charity and will not be run for profit.
- Golden Awards: Parents asked if more notice could be given when children receive their Golden Awards so that parents can attend the assembly. Mrs Marshall suggested the morning of the day before which was welcomed.
- Communication: Parents felt somewhat overwhelmed by the different methods of communication that exist between home and school and commented that it was confusing to know which to use or expect to see communications coming from. A suggestion was made to have a clear, written, communication that explains to parents how they can be expected to receive communication from school and how best for them to communicate with school. In addition, it was suggested a message on when the best times to contact the school office are would be helpful to all parents.
- Class newsletters: Parents requested that the key dates for the half term are included on an additional sheet that goes out at the start of each half term with the class newsletter. Mrs Marshall will action this.

The meeting provided a welcome and productive opportunity for parents to come into school and to speak with staff. It was agreed that to allow working parents to access the forum meetings we would alternate between them being held in the school day and the evening.

The meeting concluded after 1 hour.