22.3.18

Parents Forum Black Torrington. Lisa Paton, minute taker Terri Grant

Attendees: Ben Garrett, Cheryl Plaskett

Apologies: Sarah Leach and Kate Scrivener

Points for discussion – another time to fit in for other parents, possible at the end of school children supervised?

MAT- Lisa explained some of the changes that are taking place regarding back office systems, collaboration with other schools within the MAT (moderation of writing, Cyber Day and E- Safety competition.) Cheryl asked about what we are now called – no longer a Federation but a cluster within the MAT. Lisa explained that the school still has its own identity.

Attendance – Lisa explain that we have a target of 97%. Sometimes the EWO gets involved when attendance drops under 95% - if there is issues we have to chase it up. We cannot authorise holiday – only exceptional circumstances. When children are genuinely poorly need to try and make sure that they are not having a couple of extra days to ‘recover’ medical appointments try to be made out of hours or at the end of the day.

Lisa shared the results of the Parent questionnaire that was sent out last term. These were really positive, a positive picture – Lisa will put this on the Website and the SEF and alert parents.

Budgets – budgets are really tight, Government cuts in funding is in the news a lot. As a small school we are in a tricky situation, hopefully this is not impacting on staffing at the moment.

Lisa explained that we are now our own Local authority and we have to make our own books balance as we are now accountable for our budgets. Lisa just wanted to make sure parents know what the situation is and where we are. Looking forward at the 18/19 budgets is going to be difficult.

PTFA are a big support with this and their work is much appreciated.

Parent discussion points

Newsletter – could we have a weekly newsletter? It is difficult to keep track of what is happening.

We understand this point but unfortunately all 3 schools have newsletters all going out on the same fortnightly day and it takes both administrators and Lisa considerable time to write/put together. Appreciate that sometimes communication about what is happening could be better.

Ben suggested **that we could have a weekly board for parents like the one we have in the office.** This will be actioned asap.

Reading- keeping up with a record of when children read at school and when they are reading at home. Staff have agreed that guided reading session will be noted in the reading records weekly.

Homework – Is it inspirational? Cheryl thought that it is a good amount of homework. Ben said time it takes to do homework it good. Lisa – balance between projects and academic work. Should link to what chn are learning in class to consolidate learning. Shall do a review.