



the parents' voice  
An opportunity to influence and improve your school

## Emmbrook Infant School Parents' Forum Minutes

**Meeting No. 3:** Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2017

Attendees:- Corrina Gillard, Sam Dowse (Chair), Claire Day, Christine Leddy, Melanie Morris, Emma Mitchell, Emma Wilkinson, Katherine Pritchard

Apologies:- Kate Benson, Sonia Grundy

### Minutes:-

#### 1. Review & update of previous minutes.

Photos of teachers & TA's – to be displayed on classrooms doors- photos are coming soon.

Photos of Parent Forum Representatives. - Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April morning photos are being taken at school – post meeting note: did not attend – need to rearrange.

**Library** – The school have agreed that parent volunteers can open the library after school. We are now looking for volunteers. The plan is to open for 30 minutes (3.30 to 4.00pm) starting after half term. Pupils will need to bring their library book back to swap if they want to take one home. The idea is that 1 year group would be invited to use the library on one day each week. Volunteers need to be willing to run this and also those who can attend training and a DBS check will be required. **Please contact [emmbrook.inf.forum@gmail.com](mailto:emmbrook.inf.forum@gmail.com) if you can help!**

New or “Good as New” book donations have been accepted with thanks

Sponsorship: Discuss letter timings so that charity and requests from school do not clash – SD to talk to PTA

Curriculum workshops: Tried filming but needs to be more professional to use on website and teachers had concerns about being filmed. It is not ruled out but needs further consideration. We are looking for donations for video equipment – if you have anything suitable that could be used to film the curriculum workshops please get in touch at [emmbrook.inf.forum@gmail.com](mailto:emmbrook.inf.forum@gmail.com) or by contacting the school.

#### 2. New discussions arising from Parent Forum feedback.

No new topics for discussion were raised but it was highlighted by Mrs Gillard that funding was likely to become an issue. This was discussed along with whether parents would be willing to help more at the school. Requests may be made for parents to help with maintenance; the hall will be rented out and if anyone can think of other ways to raise money for the school it would be good to hear from you either through the forum or the PTA.

Quote from parent: *Am very grateful for the hard work they do, they always open to hear parents' views and take parents comments and concerns with high consideration, and act upon it with a high level of professionalism, making me as parent feel comfortable and confident that the school putting every effort in developing my child self esteem as well as developing their learning skills to help them achieve their potential.*

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### 3. Focus Topic – Homework

This questionnaire was a resounding success. There were 99 responses! Obviously, this is important to you. Thanks for responding. The results are summarised under the questions below.

1. Is the focus on spelling practice at home helping to improve your child's spelling?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
  - c. Comments

*Over 62% of parents felt that the focus on spelling helps to improve their child's spelling. Some parents were curious about whether spellings which were successfully learnt for the test carried over into their child's writing.*

2. How many times per week do you hear your child read at home?
  - a. Every day
  - b. 5+ times per week
  - c. 3-4 times per week
  - d. 1-2 times per week
  - e. Not at all (please explain) – with comments box

*The majority of parents hear their child read 5 or more times per week.*

3. Do you feel that the level of homework set has an impact on family life at the weekends?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No
  - c. Comments

*The majority of parents (83%) felt that the level of homework did not impact on family life. Of the 17 parents who felt there was an impact, 7 do not agree with homework at all. Some parents of younger children were concerned about homework increasing in Year 2. There were some concerns about managing homework for more than one child.*

4. What year is/are your child/children in?
  - a. Foundation
  - b. Year 1
  - c. Year 2

*The survey was completed by 99 people with an approximately even spread across the year groups.*



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### 4. Any other business:-

Send agenda items (feedback) out to parents by parentmail – positive or negative concerns

We are looking for a new chair! Please contact if interested.

#### **Next meeting 19<sup>th</sup> May 09:00-10:00**

Representatives for 2016/2017:- Sam Dowse (chair), Christine Leddy, Katherine Pritchard, Sonia Grundy, Emma Wilkinson, Claire Day, Emma Barley, Beth Hall, Mell Morris, Emma Mitchell & Kate Benson

Please email [emmbrook.inf.forum@gmail.com](mailto:emmbrook.inf.forum@gmail.com) with any queries or feedback.

[www.emmbrookinfantschool.co.uk](http://www.emmbrookinfantschool.co.uk)  
[admin@Emmbrook-inf.Wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:admin@Emmbrook-inf.Wokingham.sch.uk)

### Governors

- Parent Governors are voted into their role by all current parents at school
- Provide strategic direction to school including monitoring finances
- Approve policies
- Ensure school complies with regulations
- Monitors and raises standards of the school

[www.emmbrookinfantschool.co.uk/governors](http://www.emmbrookinfantschool.co.uk/governors)  
[admin@Emmbrook-inf.Wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:admin@Emmbrook-inf.Wokingham.sch.uk)



### Parents' Forum

- Volunteers represent year groups
- Parents' Voice
- Feedback between school and parents
- Survey opinion on particular issues
- Discuss items that impact whole a year group or the whole school
- Provide channel to celebrate success as well as feedback concerns

[www.emmbrookinfantschool.co.uk/parentsforum](http://www.emmbrookinfantschool.co.uk/parentsforum)  
[Emmbrook.inf.forum@gmail.com](mailto:Emmbrook.inf.forum@gmail.com)

### PTA

- All parents are members by default
- Charity with committee members for accounts etc.
- Fundraise for both schools
- Build school community
- Organise events: meetings to agree activities – all invited

[www.emmbrookinfantschool.co.uk/pta](http://www.emmbrookinfantschool.co.uk/pta)  
[emmbrookprimariespta@gmail.com](mailto:emmbrookprimariespta@gmail.com)