

Parent Forum Wednesday November 30th.

The meeting was attended by 2 Governors, 2 Y1 parents and Mr Marsh

Mr Marsh opened the meeting, welcoming parents, affirming a happy school and welcomes parents to approach him at any time with any possible concerns or unhappiness.

Parent concern re the current temporary class room arrangement for year 1. Mr Marsh advised that the building programme schedule suggests that by May / June the temporary arrangement will cease and year 1 will move back to their classrooms. The recent, visit by other Hounslow headteachers, reported that Yr 1 children, as with those in the school as a whole , are calm ready and eager to learn. St Mary's teachers are keen to visit schools where team teaching is embedded and are keen to see how Yr.1 is organised in other schools.

Mr Marsh explained that the walls between classes in the new Junior block (in the same year groups) will be open at different times as this would create areas of work for differentiated learning activities e.g. deeper/enrichment or additional learning support for those who may not be at Age Related Expectation. We need to be versatile in our approach to creating learning environments as there may be uncertainty around the implications of future budget cuts.

Parent query re Homework, re presumed understanding, communication regarding homework could be better at times. Mathematics, at times, is too short e.g. Only 2 questions and at times too simple . There doesn't seem to be any extension activities in the product. Mr Marsh will follow up these comments with Staff. Although Mr Marsh does not think of ourselves at St Mary's as a "Homework school." Pupils have so many other sporting/cultural/musical/ activities they need the time to participate in these too to develop the whole person.

Parent query as to what to do if a child just won't do homework? Mr Marsh advised to write a note to the teacher who will speak to the child.

Parent query regarding knowing if child is on track or has fallen behind. Mr Marsh advised that "no news is good news." Parents would be given a clear indication at Parents Evenings regarding progress. If there was a real concern the teacher would contact the parent. Teachers need to be explicit at Parents Evenings regarding progress, Emerging, Expected, Exceeding are terms that parents of younger children are used to.

Parental Query re how best to support child learning at home. Mr Marsh spoke of the whole school Maths Passport project .The child has 3 or 4 targets and parents can support these.

The meeting closed with Parents saying "it is good to talk."

Mr Marsh offered to arrange another meeting in the Spring Term.