

## **SEN Forum – 8<sup>th</sup> November 2016**

Present – Bill Gratwick (SENCo), Geoff Ellis (SEN Governor), Tanya Fitzgerald (Bursar) + 3 parents

Bill introduced himself (SENCo) and Geoff Ellis (SEN Governor).

Bill advised parents that the focus to today's forum was to provide information about what we do in school in relation to SEN. No questions were received prior to the Forum.

He explained that there is a lot of information on the SEND section of the school website, this includes

- SEN Policy
- Local Offer – this is similar to the policy, setting out what services are available in East Sussex and also includes questions and answers
- SEN Information Report – this gives information on how we as a school do things. It gives details of the training staff have received, has information about the notional SEN budget and how this is spent.

He explained that the teachers are continually assessing the children and that there are meetings held 6 times a year in which he, the class team and Mrs Hudson review how all the children are doing, regardless if they are on the SEN register or not, and discuss more in depth any children needing additional support. As well as discussing children who need support academically, they also talk about children who might be struggling socially, have friendship issues or other issues that may be affecting them. A provision map is drawn up for each year group to show what support is being put in place to help each child.

As a school we always aim for early identification of any issues putting any support needed in place as soon as possible. When children arrive in Reception they are screened for any language problems and if anything is identified we have a Speechlink and Language programme in school or if necessary they can be referred to the Speech and Language Service.

If, despite support being put in place, after time there is no improvement we will change the interventions or if necessary a referral can be made to outside agencies.

### **Examples of types of support**

Precision Teaching – this is a small steps approach

Toe by Toe – for children with literacy difficulties

Social communication groups

Speech groups

Speechlink/Language Link

Nurture groups

**Parent Question** – What age do we pick up on children with Dyslexia?

**Answer** – Bill confirmed the minimum age for diagnosing a child with Dyslexia is 7 years old. He advised we are able to screen children in school. He explained that we would use the same multi-sensory approach for any child struggling with literacy whether or not they were dyslexic so having a diagnosis doesn't necessarily change the support already in place.

Bill explained that all staff are trained to work with children with specific difficulties such as ASD. If a child comes in to the school and has a need we haven't encountered, training would be arranged for all staff. He explained there had been an assumption by some parents that some support staff were more qualified than others when it came to SEN, he confirmed this is not the case and all staff including admin staff are trained and all our teachers have qualified teacher status.

**Parent Question** – What is the process if a child is recognised as having additional needs?

**Answer** – Bill explained that we acknowledge that parents know their children best, and that if the teacher picks up on a problem they will talk to the parents and any provision or support is put in place as soon as possible. Unless it is an urgent issue Bill as SENCo will be made aware of this at the pupil progress meetings.

**Parent Question** – What is the next step if a child is recognised as having additional needs when they arrive in Reception Class?






**Answer** – Bill explained that with a child in Reception Class they will often see how it goes and give the child a chance to adapt to being at school and often issues will resolve themselves. Mrs Ottaway the class teacher will have conversations with parents if needed and will pass information on to him as SENCo.

One parent commented on there being less information available about courses and support groups now their child is at school rather than pre-school. Tanya explained as the Parent Information Contact for the school that when we receive information relating to courses or support groups for parents it is sent out in the school newsletter.

Meeting closed at 9.35am.

Date of next Forum – 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017

### Parent Feedback from SEN Forum (3 parents attended)

Did you feel welcome?	 X3
Time of session?	 X3
How useful was the event?	 X3
Length of session?	 X3
Overall session?	 X3

### What did you find useful about this Forum?

- Website information
- Meeting other parents
- General friendly overview – having our first child we just wanted to be aware of SEN so we can recognise issues and understand the SEN system if intervention and support. A very helpful overview and I feel confident where to go if any future issues arise.
- Bill answered the areas of questions I had from the last Forum

### What would you suggest to have made this event even better?

- Training or groups available to parents.