



July 2018

Report on Findings of the Working Party for Home School Communication

Following parent consultation during spring 2017 and headlines from our Ofsted inspection in April 2017, a group of parents volunteered to join staff on a working party to consider home-school communication. This report is to inform you of the working party outcomes.

Parents and staff met together periodically during the course of the academic year and discussed the following topics:

- Reporting to Parents
- Parents' Evenings and Parent Engagement Events
- Home School Books and Daily Communication
- Annual Review Process

Actions were agreed and a number of trials took place throughout the year including Class Dojo, new formats of home school books and open afternoons. We gathered feedback from staff and parents and the following pattern will be followed in the regular school calendar from now on.

Autumn Term

- Week 2-3: Settling in Parents' Evening to discuss settling in and everyday information needed; Home School Communication Agreements to be completed
- Week 4-5: Autumn term targets to be agreed
- Penultimate week of term: parents to feed back on progress against targets at home; school to send home brief report on pupil's progress that term
- Christmas events

Spring Term

- Week 2-3: Parents' Evening to agree Spring term targets
- Penultimate week of term: parents to feed back to teachers on progress against targets at home; school to send home brief report on pupil's progress that term

Summer Term

- Week 2-3: Summer term targets to be agreed
- End of June: parents to feed back on progress against targets at home
- Beginning of July: End of Year Reports sent home
- Sports Day
- Open Parents' Evening: opportunity to talk to current and next year's teachers
- Leavers' Assembly

Annual Reviews – throughout the year

Our Annual Review meetings will continue to be fully person-centred, but we will be making a few small changes.

From September, parents will receive an update on their child's progress towards their Education, Health and Care Plan outcomes a fortnight before the annual review in order to be able to prepare for the Annual Review meeting.

Our 'boards' in the meeting will change focus slightly in order to ensure that we fully address every aspect of your child's EHCP during the meeting.

Targets set for your child in school during the course of the year will also be integrated with EHCP outcomes.

Further information about the revised meeting format will be communicated via your invitation letter for your child's next Annual Review.

Home School Communication

Trials of a variety of home school communication were held during the year. Home School Books will remain an essential part of our daily communication between school and families/carers, and these will continue to be developed; more news will follow in September.

The use of Class Dojo will finish at the end of term. Although this has been a hugely successful app for pupils and families to use, the reason that we will not be continuing to access Class Dojo is because we are now using a new digital learning journal platform called Evidence for Learning. This will include online access for parents and, in due course, a parent app and pupil app which are due for release next year. Please look out for information on how to use Evidence for Learning early in the Autumn term. We trust that this will be very successful for parents and children alike, and will also integrate fully with the pupils' learning.

Additionally, we plan to start using the electronic platform 'School Gateway' for some letters (for example permission for trips out) and payments to school. Details on this will follow in the Autumn term.

As always, we value comments and feedback from parents; if you have any further contributions to make please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Sarah Clarke