

Parent Forum 15.7.14

Walking to School

Joanne Kirwan and Ray Craig (Eastleigh Borough Council (EBC) / Sustrans) joined us for the first part of the meeting.

Ray explained the work he does across schools in the area and answered general questions about 'bikeability'.

There were concerns from parents that bikeability trains the children when the roads are quiet but does not prepared them to cycle to school when it is busy.

Qu: Why has EBC not put in cycle routes along Pine road and Hiltisbury Road? Sustrans has looked at possible routes for cycle paths but it needs funding (approx. 1 million) and there is difficulty in finding room to put the cycle path.

There are opportunities for families to cycle on safe routes identified by Sustrans.

Qu: Could bikeability be opened up to the Infants and Lower Juniors? Joanne K answered that she was looking into this but again funding issues are a priority.

Qu: Is there a possibility of having a crossing patrol on Pine Road? Joanne K would look into this with EBC.

Discussed the possibility of running an after school bike club which would look at key skills including maintenance of bikes.

Qu: Could the bottom field gate be opened and used as an access point at the beginning and end of the day? This issue will be looked into.

Qu: Could the gate by the year 3 classes be made bigger?

Behaviour

Will Lyon joined us, gave out the behaviour policy and explained how it had been working. It was suggested that this late into the term the children were all familiar with it and it was working well. The true test would be in September when things were new.

Will discussed the new house point system and the rewards linked to it – e.g. house afternoons for the winning house. Next year Will would like to involve the children more in deciding what they would like as a treat.

Parents responded that their children had reacted positively to the new system.

Will also explained the individual nature of the house point system whereby children could monitor and be rewarded for their individual success. They could also be involved in choosing the prizes for this.

There was discussion around the new bins and how they contributed to the house system.

There was a brief chat about recycling.

Sports Day

Will explained that this year the school had been split into upper and lower school events for sports day and asked for feedback.

One parent said their children really enjoyed the competitive nature and the racing.

Another parent had totally the opposite view and had to manage the 'fear of failure' with their children.

Most parents liked the upper and lower school being split and there were discussions on how that could be managed e.g. combining the two with a lunch time picnic.

There were various discussions on managing expectations of different groups.

Issue of parents seeing the most of their children especially if they had taken time off work.

A O B

A parent reported that communication was much better between the Infant and Junior schools.

Next meeting we would be looking at homework.

Also discussion about the new report formats and how this has been received.