



Fleet Primary School

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Headteacher: Don McGibbon



Governor Visit Report Parents' Information Morning January 2019

Parent's Information Meeting held in the Hall on Monday 28th January 2019 @ 9.15am

Nineteen families were present.

Don started saying he would be talking about our curriculum and approach to home learning. He discussed the context of the school and the demographics of the community and compared this to the national picture.

Curriculum: The Fleet curriculum is creative and is based on children being involved in what they are doing and teachers having freedom to be creative within their topic. Don explained the difference between a topic based and a discrete curriculum and described the way in which topics are structured at Fleet. He described how children are encouraged to make links.

Don explained that maths and science may be taught discretely if they cannot be linked into the topic. The teachers can choose their own topics and develop their curriculum and this is one thing that is special about Fleet and enables teachers to personalise their topics to current events and the children in their classes. We do not buy in ready produced topic schemes of work.

This requires careful planning and teachers need to ensure that all the objectives for children at that stage should have been covered.

Don discussed the trips and how they relate to the topics. He explained how literacy is embedded in the topics. He also discussed how curriculum maps and trackers are completed and monitored by the curriculum lead and senior management. Don also discussed the shows and assemblies and the confidence that results from this.

Don also described music provision in the school and discussed how being creative has contributed to how our children approach learning.

Don then outlined the school's approach to home learning, putting this in the context of evidence regarding the links between homework and achievement in primary school. He emphasised the fact that a small amount of homework building on work done in class seems to be the most beneficial and avoids teaching time being diverted by large amounts of marking.

Don also highlighted the usefulness of the two learning applications the school subscribes to, which can be used for additional home learning – Espresso and Mathletics. Parents talked favourably of using these with their children.

In response to questions:

Don described our links to STEAM hub and how staff have designed STEAM topics. New links have been developed to include STEAM.

Don discussed our approach to SATs. We do not hothouse the children and year 5 and year 6 are not focused exclusively on SATs preparation and children continue to receive a full creative curriculum.

Don discussed transition to secondary school and how other schools know about our approach. He explained the communication between Fleet and secondary schools about individual children.

Don discussed the make-up of individual classes and the impact of different cohorts on attainment in national tests.

Don discussed the impact of falling rolls on schools.

Don discussed the writing objectives and how to support children in writing.

Don discussed how we measure success beyond facts – for example in skills. This is something that we are working on.

There was a discussion about what facts children should know and how much testing there should be.

**Meeting Attended and Report produced by: Kim Issroff and Kirsty Kitchen
Date: 28th January 2019**