



**PARENT FORUM MEETING
FRIDAY 3RD NOVEMBER
MINUTES**

Present:

Julie Puxley	Kayleigh Palmer
Sharon Bear	Gemma Bauer
Deb Pawson	Trevor Cleeve
Petra Torrance	Lizzie Harvey
Alison Barker	Amy Kennedy
Pam Lohead	Jenny Dear
Mia Smith	Kate Horrey
Catherine Kelly	Madi Wilkie

1.	<p><u>Apologies</u></p> <p>Apologies were received from Mandy Weetch and Claire Haddock</p>
2.	<p><u>School Development/Vision Evening</u></p> <p>Julie Puxley gave a short presentation detailing the main achievements that school has made since the previous Vision Evening in January 2014, when school staff, parents and governors set out their ideas for a three year development plan across the schools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Joint working across both schools• Forest School• Year 6 French Trip• Art/Craft Club in Infants• Tablets in the Classroom <p>The presentation then looked at ideas for the School Development Plan for the next three years, which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Updated facilities in Junior Art Room• School Minibus• Outdoor Sound Equipment
3.	<p><u>Art Room Refurbishment</u></p> <p>The funding of the refurbishment of the Art Room was discussed. It was felt that a total of about £10,000 would be needed for new furniture, equipment, kiln, installation of hot water with new sink facilities and general decoration.</p> <p>Kate Horrey, representing the Fund Raising Team, felt that this was an achievable target and Mia Smith is organising a 'totaliser banner' so parents can see the progress.</p> <p>Trevor Cleeve suggested that when ready for decorating the room we could ask for volunteers who have the time/skills to help.</p>

	<p>It was noted that to make all our fund raising events a success we will need more volunteers to help run each event and of course the fund raising team are always happy to welcome new members. There is a Facebook page with information on from the team, and we will get this linked to our website and published in the newsletter. It was suggested by Amy that we could also set up a Doodle calendar for events on this page.</p>
4.	<p><u>Open Day</u> With the school Open Day coming up for the September 2018 intake, Julie asked for any unique selling points that the forum thought should be highlighted. Ideas were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest School available off site • The school’s location with open spaces around • Early Years outdoor area • Our caring ethos • Chickens • Year Group topic launches and landings • School’s inclusive attitude to all pupils/parents • Music Room
5.	<p><u>New Planner – Year 3/4</u> The new planner format was working really well although for future designs a ‘weekend diary slot’ would be useful.</p>
6.	<p><u>Encouraging Reading at Home</u> Ideas for the school to consider were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phasing of house points depending on number of times read in a week • Grandparents volunteering to help read with children in school • Finding ways to promote the library summer read • Setting up different reading challenges during the school year (e.g. paper chains and treasure hunts) • Set up a Reading Club • Using World Book Day as a platform to promote reading, including author visits • Flip learning on topics
7.	<p><u>Time Tables Awards Stucture</u> It was felt that the current badge system could be reviewed, perhaps looking at ways to reward effort. Also the school could look at using buddies to help practise in school and research suitable ipad apps that would support times table practice.</p>
8.	<p><u>Early Years Transition</u> This year’s phased intake worked very well for the children, although some parents struggled with the 3 weeks of part time schooling for the younger children. It was felt that the school could explain to the parents in more detail how the staggered start benefitted the children.</p> <p>It was definitely felt that the nursery visits work well and were reassuring for the children.</p>

9.	<p><u>Year 3 Transition</u> This year's transition from Infant to Junior school had worked well.</p>
10.	<p><u>Volunteers in School</u> It was noted that it would be really useful to get more volunteers helping and perhaps we could think of ways to get more parents or grandparents in to help with reading and school activities such as the biscuits for Children in Need.</p>
11.	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>CLASS PHOTOS: It was asked if the class photos could be earlier in the year, however the school diaries them for the summer term so that there is more chance we can have them taken outdoors. Parents usually purchase the photos as a memento of the past year and it is the individual school photos that are taken at the beginning of the school year.</p> <p>GIRLS NETBALL: It was requested that the school consider setting up a netball club for those that don't get to participate in the squad training.</p> <p>HOLIDAY DATES: It was suggested that the school move holiday dates to make the summer holiday shorter and put the holiday time elsewhere in the year so that parents could take advantage of cheaper holidays. As a school we are guided by the Saffron Academy Trust as all the trust schools need to have the same holidays. It would also be very difficult for parents that had children in other schools if they had different holidays.</p>
12.	<p><u>Next Meeting</u> The date of the spring term meeting to be advised.</p>