



**PARENT FORUM MEETING
TUESDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 2016
MINUTES**

Present: Rachel Callaghan
Julie Puxley
Sharon Bear
Kate Horrey
Madi Wilkie

Gemma Bauer
Amanda Weetch
Karen Whiter
Mia Smith

1.	<p><u>Apologies</u> Apologies were received from Katie Millar, Anna Davies, Pam Lochhead and Claire Haddock</p>
2.	<p><u>Parents Evening Sign Up System</u> All the feedback was positive, parents felt the system was easy and quick to use and much easier for parents that do not get up to school very often.</p>
3.	<p><u>Early Years/Year 6 Buddies</u> The Year 6 children enjoyed the experience of helping the Early Years during their first weeks of school. Also the Early Years children really benefitted from having 1:1 help during lunchtime and were delighted with the letter they received from their buddy during the summer holiday.</p>
4.	<p><u>Fund Raising</u> Preparations are well underway for the Christmas Fair and we have had some great raffle prizes donated. However there has been a very disappointing response from parents, with very few volunteering to help during the fair. As we can only run as many stalls as we have helpers, this can significantly impact on the success of the fair.</p> <p>Julie said that we would put in yet another plea for help in this week's newsletter.</p> <p>Kate Horrey said that in the new year they will send out a letter asking parents for fund raising ideas that they would like in school. The team are happy to organise and run any events, they just need to know what parents are interested in.</p>
5.	<p><u>Early Years and Year 3 Induction</u> Early Years parents have been happy with this year's induction. The school has sent out a questionnaire to them and will take on board feedback from this when reviewing next year's induction process.</p> <p>Year 3 parents have been pleased with the way the children have settled into the Junior School and are particularly impressed with the range of extra curriculum activities that are organised for the children and would like to pass on their thanks to the Junior school staff.</p>

	<p>Year 3 parents are finding it difficult with the transition from Friday folders and home learning letters in the Infants to electronic communication and homework books in the Juniors, although the Juniors had continued with home learning letters for the first half term to help with this transition.</p> <p>It was asked if the schools could look at ways to make it clearer to parents what/when changes would happen and how they can keep abreast of their child's learning/homework. Julie and Rachel will look at this for next year's Year 3 induction process.</p>
6.	<p><u>School Trips</u></p> <p>Parents continue to be delighted with the range of school trips arranged for their children and the response from parents paying trip contributions has been much better this year. Details of the trips and payments for 15/16 were circulated and it was noted that even after parental contributions and a £1,276 donation from Councillor Anjum, the school still contributed over £4,000 so that these trips could go ahead. It was felt that parents are now realising that it just would not be possible for the school to continue to provide these fantastic opportunities for their children without their contributions.</p>
7.	<p><u>School Dinners</u></p> <p>The size of school dinner portions for the Junior children was again raised. It was explained at the last forum meeting that we have to follow government guidelines on portion size. Rachel brought in samples of dinners provided for both infant and junior children and all at the meeting agreed that they were extremely adequate portions for even the older junior children. Rachel also added that in addition to the main part of the meal, children are allowed to have as much vegetable and salad with their dinner as they would like.</p>
8.	<p><u>Year 6 Class Sizes</u></p> <p>The change to Year 6 classes, having three smaller classes for morning sessions has proved to work really well for pupils, parents and the school.</p>
9.	<p><u>Year 6 Productions</u></p> <p>Year 6 parents are not all happy that their children will not be performing in a Christmas production this year. Also other parents are concerned about the organisation of the productions for each of the other three year groups, feeling that if they have children in more than one year it means they will have to attend more than one production.</p> <p>Rachel has said she will address these issues in a parentmail to be sent later this week for Junior parents.</p>
10.	<p><u>Year 1 Water Bottles</u></p> <p>Some Year 1 parents have asked if there can be more done to encourage children to drink water during the day.</p> <p>Julie explained that they do have access to water throughout the day, they are all given water or milk to drink at lunchtime, and are reminded by their class teacher to drink especially after physical activities such as PE and playtime.</p>

	<p>If any parent has a particular concern about their child’s medical needs, this should be discussed individually with the class teacher and the school can arrange a healthcare plan.</p>
<p>11.</p>	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>SPELLINGS: It was asked why the children had half termly spellings instead of weekly. This point was raised at a Forum meeting last year and it was then explained:</p> <p>The problem with spreading it out and weekly testing is that children learn them for the tests and then forget them. The idea is the children build on their spellings each week continuing to add to the words they know rather than just learn and forget. It supports the interleaved approach which is much more successful for long term retention of the words.</p> <p>RELIGION: Some parents felt that the level of religious practice in school had increased with the children having a prayer at every assembly. Julie said that although this had been called a ‘prayer’ it wasn’t a traditional religious prayer but was in fact a poem of reflection for the children.</p> <p>CROSS COUNTY: Junior school children took part (very successfully) in an inter school cross country run this term. It was reported that some children had not taken any warmer clothing (i.e. track suits) with them so were getting very cold when not running. Rachel confirmed that she would remind staff and children that they should always have their track suits with them for winter outdoor events.</p>
<p>12.</p>	<p><u>Next Meeting</u></p> <p>The date of the next meeting will be Tuesday 28th February at 2.15 pm.</p>