



PARENT FORUM MEETING MINUTES
Friday 22nd March 2024

<u>Present:</u>	Julie Puxley Madi Wilkie Sarah Steer Emilie Fisset Elspeth Newman	Kate Brown Emily Small Gosia Henik Christina Hammond
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1.	<p><u>Apologies</u> Apologies were received from Hayley Cordall</p>
2.	<p><u>Results of recent Parent Surveys</u> Julie Puxley explained to parents that the results of the recent parent survey were incredibly positive, some of the comments have been added to the website for prospective parents.</p>
3.	<p><u>Update on School Photographs</u> Due to past comments from parents we have booked with another photography company for the next academic year. We will be using Carmel Jane from September 2024.</p>
4.	<p><u>Feedback on School Lunches</u> Julie Puxley explained that the kitchen is currently making a loss, she explained that the kitchen remain committed to serving high quality meals which are cooked from scratch. Obviously food costs have risen dramatically and it may be that we need to increase the cost of school lunches again. Julie explained we still offer the cheapest lunches in the area. Parents were asked if an increase would lead to their children having less lunches and parents indicated that it wouldn't. They all agreed that it was virtually impossible to provide a healthy packed lunch for less than the cost of a school lunch. Julie asked what the reason was for children choosing packed lunches and parents all said their children only had a packed lunch on the days that they didn't like the school meal. Julie has said she will speak to the school council to get some ideas from the children as to which meals they would like to see on the menu.</p>
5.	<p><u>Mothers Day feedback</u> Julie Puxley asked for thoughts on the infants Mothers Day events. She wondered whether these events were enjoyed and appreciated by parents. All the reps said they loved them and were so grateful to be able to see their child in their classroom environment. One parent asked what happened to children to who have a parent attend these types of event and Julie explained that they are very quickly either buddied with a friend or the teacher takes extra special care of them. The reps were very passionate about these events continuing.</p> <p>One parent comment asked whether events such as Mothers Day could be held at different times (such as after school) as some working parents cannot attend. As this event focusses on seeing children in their classroom environment and watching lessons these need to take place during the school day. We try to give at least 3 months notice. The day is for any special person in your child's life and we would always encourage parents speak to school if they have any issues attending and we will always try to help. There was a comment that some parents don't</p>

	<p>have childcare for younger children, unfortunately we don't have enough staff to provide a creche for these events however would encourage parents to help each other out with babysitting younger siblings.</p>
6	<p><u>Encouraging Walking/Cycling to school.</u> Julie Puxley explained that we were going to try to get a grant to allow us to purchase bike shed, she asked where the best place for these to go would be and parents said not at the front of the school as this area seemed less secure. It was decided nearer to the school buildings would be better.</p>
7	<p><u>Possibility of School running pre-schooler sports sessions</u> Mr Gilkes may have a free morning from September and Julie wondered whether him running a pre-schooler gym/sports club would be something parents with younger children would be used to. Reps felt this would be a great idea – they commented that it would be nice to have a pre-schooler activity that was run by a male. It was commented that parents whose children had attended Meadows and had lunch in school and had enjoyed PE with Mr Gilkes as part of their nursery found the transition to school so smooth.</p>
8	<p><u>Fundraising</u> Reps were asked to come up with ideas of movies suitable from ages 4-11 for the outdoor movie event. Initial suggestions were Toy Story, Shrek, Ice Age & Emoji Movie. These will be put to the School council and then voted for by the children.</p>
9	<p><u>Other Comments</u> There was a comment asking if WBD tokens can be given out earlier next year. Yes absolutely, they were only a little late this year as we had thought parents would like them for the book fair. A parent said they wished children has dressed up, it was explained that we received complaints about the fact the children did dress up last year. Reps agreed you can never please everyone and varying the book day events seemed fair. A comment was mentioned about trips being hard for working parents when the children have an start early when we have just returned from a holiday. Some trips (such as the recent Year 1 Pantomime) can only happen on specific dates, and we have very little choice in when they can be. A parent also asked if children could not eat their lunch on the bus, this has only happened once for a Theatre trip where there was no lunchroom available in the theatre. The bus pulled over for the children to eat their lunch as they were all so hungry and it would be too late by the time they returned to school. There was a comment from a parent about education of peace keeping and humanitarian efforts. Teachers do have to follow the National Curriculum and topics relating to these areas are always taught sensitively and with compassion.</p>