

Parents Forum

Minutes 15th June 2018

Present: See parents list

Sue Rainbow (Head of School), Rachael McKeown (Pastoral SLT), Liz Walker (Chair/ Governor) Clare Timms (Governor) Lisa Watson (School Business Manager)

1. Apologies: Received from

Rachel Thompson, Sharan Watson, Kathryn Preece, Abi Guyett and Claire Swanepoel.

Laura Pearson and Teresa Harling were unaware of change of date.

2. Arising from minutes of last meeting

- Some discussion concerning shoes worn by children. SR suggested that all children should have trail shoes as uniform outdoor shoes.
- Books at Parents Evenings- These are now handed personally to the parents concerned.
- Dogs outside School- Are now kept on the opposite side of the lane, away from the School gates, as requested.

3. Weduc (New school App)

Lisa Watson commented that initially there would be some overlap with texts/ emails. But eventually there will be less on the traditional systems. LW said Notifications from the App would soon be active. From September everything should be available via the App.

Parent feedback was all very positive so far.

4. Appropriate Responses

SR advised that some parents are using social media / other forums to discuss problems with School, rather than calling in and talking to the staff concerned.

SR to address those people.

SR also mentioned the various competitions which children are holding in school. She said that these are good for building entrepreneurial skills and self-confidence. Parents have complained at being asked to provide prizes, but SR said the School is happy to provide these where necessary.

5. WASPS Promotion

JE noted that several volunteers will be finishing this year and there is a need to recruit new members. An introductory sheet has been given to new parents.

JE suggested holding a meeting of members and new parents with coffee/ cake in the hall (possibly at Parents Evening) to let them know what is required and to stress that this is not a continuous commitment but parents can drop in and out as needed.

6. School Dinner Choices

JE advised that quite often the last children in to dinner are left with little choice of food.

SR commented that £240,00 refurbishment of kitchens is taking place over the Summer. As the school is no longer bound by the LEA rules, changes are a-foot, as School will be able to make choices about the food.

This may lead to new choice of menus with the possibility of children pre-booking their meals/ Banding system?

7. Homework

Some Year 1 parents have mentioned that recent homework has been more difficult/ repetitive. RM said this may be linked to the Phonic Screening which is now over.

It was commented that there is still some inconsistency over year groups on how home work is marked/ appreciated/ earwigged.

SR said the main purpose of homework is to cement learning from lessons and that there is a drive to lighten the work load of teachers at the moment.

SR to talk to staff re- consistency of homework / marking.

More to come regarding learning X -Tables.

The issue of teaching spelling is being investigated.

Parents asked if it was possible to have links to spelling and X-Table Apps.

Also wondered if the Weduc App could be used to pre warn parents when tests are imminent.

Parents asked if School is investing in an on-line Maths App but RM replied that although the School has researched this they have not yet found any which justify the spending involved. SR mentioned Exemplar Education, where parents pay for the service which includes home visits.

Parents asked if the order of Reading Levels could be shared on Weduc or the Website.

8. Acorn parents worried about choices on offer at Breakfast Club.

SR to check sugar content of cereals on offer.

9. Acorn parents concerned about choice of puddings

SR said that it is a case of balancing their diets; fruit / yoghurt is always available and children can develop their independence by making their own choices.

10. Breakfast Club price increase

SR stated that the price has not changed for two years; it is still very competitive and staff costs etc. must be covered.

SR to investigate possibility of increasing capacity of Breakfast Club.

AOB

- It was stated that parents waiting to collect children can see into classrooms where children are changing to / from PE.

SR to consider options.

- Some parents are loitering on the foot path causing children to have to walk into the road to get past them.

SR to make a note on newsletter to remind parents to keep paths clear.

Next Meeting: Friday 2nd November 2.00 pm

Clare Timms