

## **Parents Forum Minutes**

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

**Present:** Marie Miller, Sharan Watson, Nicola Stephens, Laura Pearson, Charlotte Liddell, Rachel Thompson, Claire Swanepoel, Lisa Brown, Donna Pope, Michelle Ellis, Sian Wood, Claire Hudson, Dee Dixon-Smith, Abi Guyett,

Liz Walker (Chair/Governor), Sue Rainbow (Head of School), Rachel Mckeown (Assistant Head), Lynn Knox (Vice-Chair of Governors)

### **1. Apologies**

Jill Edwards, Kathryn Preece, Teresa Harling

### **2. Review of Previous Minutes/Actions**

#### **Maths Evening**

The evening was well attended by parents and governors. RM and SR confirmed that due to the success and good feedback it is planned that it will be repeated on an annual basis.

RM asked whether the timing of the evening in the academic year was good. It was discussed and it was concluded that it was ideal to have this evening at the start of the year.

The organisation of timings of the evening was the only point raised to be improved. A period of transition between each session was suggested. This would allow parents to move from one classroom to another before the next session starts. This will be looked at for future evenings.

LW confirmed that the aim of the evening was to glean information about maths and an opportunity for short questions. There was insufficient time for in-depth discussions should such questions should be kept for a different time to allow for smooth transition between the sessions.

Staff are now looking at holding a similar evening for literacy.

#### **School Dinner Information for New Foundation Parents**

It was confirmed by RM that more detail and clarity would be provided to parents of Foundation Stage children in the future.

#### **Order Form for WASPs Clothing Sales**

It was discussed at a WASPs meeting and LW confirmed that an order form system for a second hand uniform sale was difficult to achieve. This was partly due to stock levels of uniform and sizes being unknown because of the nature of the sale.

#### **Information Evening Consistency**

SR confirmed that all future evening meetings would be purposeful for parents.

### **3. School Clubs Update**

LW stated that the governors carried out an online survey to gain feedback from parents about school clubs. As not many responses were received, it was difficult to see a picture for whole school. The overall findings were that there was no clear area of need.

SR confirmed that an audit of clubs has been carried out and there are an increasing range of clubs being offered at school, including curling, botcha and table tennis. SR stated that all children have opportunity to take part in various sporting events throughout the year.

An aim for Willesley is to achieve the Gold Mark for sports where all children partake in 3 hours of sport per week (two of which each child already has during timetables curriculum lessons).

Lunchtime Clubs- These include Lego therapy, colouring clubs and board games. They are offered to children where needed.

Breakfast Club – Running this in-house has resulted in significant benefits. Staff commented that children come into school from Breakfast Club settled and focussed. SR stated that it will remain like this until the tender comes up for renewal.

After School Club – Clubs Complete run this and a range of activities are on offer. A query was raised about staff running after school clubs but SR explained that the priority at school was learning and running clubs took valuable time away from marking and assessing pupil's work. A range of clubs/sessions are on offer to children in preparation for sporting events.

#### **4. Foundation Stage Nativity Performance**

A parent enquired if extra performances could be offered for the FS Nativity performance.

RM expressed concerns due to the number of children involved. The extra performances would create additional pressure on staff, hall timetabling, and resources.

It was noted by parents in the forum that there were opportunities offered to parents via text for the extra tickets that were available from school office.

Videoing the performance and selling copies for school funds was suggested but the difficulties with children who can't be videoed was also highlighted.

The safeguarding issue of putting pictures and recordings of children on social media was raised by parents.

SR agreed that, prior to performances and events, the school needs to continue to give clear, strong warnings about not posting photos and videos on social media.

#### **5. Flooding**

It was noted that there was lots of pressure on Severn Trent that day. SR confirmed that the flooding was not an issue with school drains but with drains outside school grounds.

It was agreed by the parent representatives that the flooding was dealt with in an appropriate way by school.

SR explained that a map had been sent to school to show how drainage could be improved. The school valued a professional opinion and SR confirmed that the school would will look into cost etc.

## **6. Snowy Conditions**

It was highlighted that the school lane was particularly treacherous during the adverse weather conditions and this concerned parents.

Willesley staff were praised by parents on how well they dealt with this situation, how safely was assessed and how well parents were kept fully informed via text.

It was questioned whether enough was done by the authorities to deal with the conditions on Packington Nook Lane. The road was not gritted to make it safer.

The Council was contacted by a parent about the conditions of Packington Nook Lane via email.

## **7. Sports Day – Why was KS1 Sports Day not competitive?**

An email was sent by a parent to the school office about why KS1 activities were non-competitive at Sports Day. An email response was sent.

LW stated that in 2015 a survey about Sports Day was carried out by the school. The results of this showed that the preference was for the KS1 event to be focused on team games and the KS2 event was to be competitively based.

SR outlined the huge undertaking to manage and organise 400 children at an event to ensure all children were fully participating and engaged.

Parents agreed that the event was well organised and ran smoothly. Although KS1 was based around team games and activities, there was still a competitive element within some of the games.

SR stated that prior to the KS2 sports day, trials were held to ensure all children were catered for and children were put into races suited to their ability. This provided children with a challenge at all levels of ability.

RM added that Foundation Stage's participation in the event was going to be discussed. It would be decided whether or not it may become a separate event in the future, due to numbers of children involved in the event.

## **8. Parent's Evening**

There was confusion as to why the first parent's evening was held so early in the academic year. SR stated that the school used this evening as a check on how children are settling into new class. An opportunity for parents and teachers to meet and share any concerns at the start of the year.

It was suggested that this evening may be misleading to parents.

SR agreed to look at this and possibly rename the evening to make it clearer for parents.

## **9. Dinner Money**

A parent expressed a concern that bringing extra money to school for cakes and drinks had the potential to cause problems. Not all parents were aware of this in school. SR suggested it is not advertised that drinks and cakes are available to buy at lunchtime as it has always been aimed at children who bring lunch with them as a "top up". Staff confirmed it has never caused problems at school up to date and were not aware of any issues with this.

According to a parent, some children have been found to be swapping items of lunch with friends. Children with food allergies was the concern.

The school office to send a text to parents to ensure swapping of items doesn't happen.

The school is a nut free site. There was also a concern about nut products being brought to school as snacks at the end of the day.

A text will be sent to remind parents of this.

## **10. Music Lessons**

A query was raised by a parent regarding opportunities for music to be showcased in school.

The opportunities available to children was discussed. It was decided that there were various opportunities during the school year for children who played instruments to perform to parents, including the external Christmas Music Concert and the Summer Music Festival.

LK highlighted the importance for all arts to receive equal opportunity in school and that not all children want to perform to an audience.

It was noted that Mr Brookes was a great advocate for music at Willesley and there had been a positive impact in that area since his arrival.

SR explained the new music scheme of work being taught across the school which was lively, engaging and interesting for the children. The music curriculum is available to be viewed on the school website

## **11. Year 6 Photographs**

It was confirmed by SR that Year 6 photographs were take every year.

## **12. School Shoes**

It was highlighted that some children are wearing trainers to school. Parents commented this was unfair, inconsistent and didn't look good when children were out on school trips or representing the school.

The uniform and shoes policy will be looked at by SR before the next meeting.

## **AOB**

### **Books at Parents Evening**

A parent expressed a concern about children's books being looked at by other parents whilst waiting outside classrooms at Parent's Evening.

SR said she would look into this matter.

### **Dogs at School Gate**

Lots of dogs are being left tied up just outside school gate before and after school. It was a concern that some were left very close to the entrance gates when children were arriving and leaving school. After discussion, it was suggested that the dogs could be left on the opposite side of the road.

A text will be sent to parents to ask for help to address this.

### **Purpose of Parent Forum**

SR asked all members of the Parent Forum to read the guidelines and sign to agree to them.

A copy of these guidelines will be put on school website.

**Next Meeting: Friday 8<sup>th</sup> June**