

Parents Forum
Minutes 19th November 2018

Present: See list of parents

Sue Rainbow (Head of School), Rachael McKeown (Pastoral SLT), Liz Walker (Chair/Governor), Clare Timms (Governor), Lyn Knox (Chair of Governors)

Everyone introduced themselves. It was noted that for now, all could remain on the Forum, but next year places would be open for election still aiming for one representative parent for each class.

Minutes from last meeting

Appropriate Responses: SR has addressed individuals concerned.

Wasps: Some new members have joined.

School Dinners: SR commented that no banding system is yet in place. The school kitchen has just undergone a massive refurbishment and the School is hoping to move towards controlling the food in the future. There is always some food available for seconds, although children may not be able to have their first choice. Year Groups dine in rotation to make this fair.

Home Work: The Home work policy has been reviewed and is available on the School website. It has been organised to give teachers greater control and covers three main areas:

Pre-Learning,

Practise,

Consolidation.

The idea is to set up routines and develop a home work habit ready for the next school.

Reading Challenge: SR thanked parents for their positive response to the Reading Challenge; the children have loved it and it has helped to boost their reading.

Any issues which arise with home work should first be discussed with the Class Teacher.

It was suggested that children could be asked to share their thought on Home Work. (time spent with grandparents/ reading to pets etc.)

SR also commented that spelling would still be a part of home-work, especially as a spelling test is part of the Year Six SATs Tests. Similarly, phonics is tested at the end of Year One and a multiplication test is to be introduced at the end of Year Four.

But SR emphasised that the most important part of home-work is READING. Levels/ colours are still being re-organised.

Breakfast Club: SR to check sugar levels in cereals offered to children. The capacity for Breakfast Club is 45, so there is a waiting list.

Changing for P.E.: Possibility of girls and boys changing separately is being examined and occurs where possible.

Information for New Classes: Each year group sends out some information on the Transition Days. Each Year Group will provide further information to parents, during the school year, as appropriate. For example, Year Six will hold an information evening nearer

the end of the year to inform parents about SATs Tests, Sex Education and any other matters arising.

Parents will be invited into school for Decorations Day, where they will also be given information regarding Route to Resilience work.

Year One have recently held a Phonics Afternoon, to coincide with the end of the school day.

There tends to be a two-year rotation, with Maths Information one year and English the next. There may be the introduction of a Grammar Evening.

WEDUC: The use of the Ap WEDUC, is still in its early days with some teething problems. WEDUC is to be used more like a twitter Feed, while EARWIG is still to be used for photographs.

A parent queried whether WEDUC forms gave rise to a Data Protection Issue and were reassured that this is not the case. Editable forms and reply slips are now being trialled on WEDUC.

Sports/Clubs: Parents wanted to be aware of these arising in advance so they could encourage children to sign up in time. SR stated that a Schools Sports Partnership Poster had been sent home, so that parents can see what is coming up. Parents are encouraged to email School if they wish their child to be entered in a specific event.

LK reminded the parents of the Forum that parents should come into school, or email to voice any individual queries they may have as the Parents Forum cannot fix everything.

Packed lunch children to eat with friends: Not always possible as there are 419 children to get through the dinner hall, but mostly they should be able to be mixed up. School is currently trialling Year Six Packed Lunch children eating in the Studio, to try to ease pressure in the dining hall.

Drinks at Lunch: Cookie sells drinks and cakes for up to 50p. (School is supposed to be a cashless site.) Parents enquired whether this is necessary. SR commented that this is not a school provision.

SR to investigate further.

Toast Bar at Break times: Parents suggested setting this up as a top up for breakfast. Parents could possibly pre-order.

SR to check the viability, whether food hygiene certificates are needed etc.

Possibly a Questionnaire on WEDUC to discern parent interest.

Saul Isaac (School Photos): There have been some administration issues- A parent received the photos of the wrong child and some complaints about the colour quality of photos.

SR advised parents to inform office of any problems.

Perhaps time to look at packages offered by other firms

Possibly a WEDUC Questionnaire to find out parental opinion.

AOB

Cycling: Parents asked if there were any plans for Road Safety/ Cycling training for children. School looked into this but were only offered places for half the cohort.

SR to explore sending out Skills sign posts to parents.

Lost Property: Apparently named Items are turning up in the shelter.

LW to check.

Feed Back to parents by SR:

Thank you for your response to the Reading Challenge; teachers have already noticed an improvement in the amount of reading.

Route to Resilience: Responses from children in class, Parents and Governors. Please keep sending them in.

Attendance Awards: 68% of the school had 100% Attendance! Great to be able to give out so many awards.

Next Meeting:

Friday 8th February 2019 at 2pm.