

LOUDWATER COMBINED SCHOOL
Parents' Forum minutes

Meetings held on 19nd May 2015 at 9.30am and 7.00pm.

Apologies: Amanda Pierce Collinao, Antonio Collinao Pizarro, Sandra Brewer, Paul Randall, Ibrar Fahad (Y1 rep),

Attendees:

Morning meeting	Evening meeting
There were no attendees at the morning meeting.	Steve Andrews (Y4 rep) Barbra Robinson (Y3 rep) Kelly Greenlee (Y2 rep) Donna Floyd Kelly Sears (FS rep) Larissa Bashir (Y6 rep) Jean Howard Andy McNeill Belinda Welland Clare Cunnington

School information

In School, we have been focusing on these areas:

Assessments:

Children have been completing these during last week and this. (w/b 11.5 and 18.5).

Year six pupils have taken the end of key stage 2 tests in Reading, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation, which are externally marked. Parents will be informed of these levels with the end of year report.

In other year groups, children have completed similar assessments. The results of these are used to inform teacher assessments.

The results of all assessments and teacher assessments will be reported to parents in the end of year report 9.7.15

During the week of 15.6.15 Year one phonics screening will take place. There is also re-screening for some children in Year two. The outcomes of the screening will also be reported with the annual report to parents.

Moving up to the next class:

Children will spend part of the morning with their new teacher on 7.7.15.

On this day Year six children spend the day at their new secondary schools.

Also on this date, new Foundation Stage pupils and parents visit the school.

There will be transition meetings for the parents of children moving to Year one and Year three, these dates will be notified after half term.

There is also a meeting for Year five parents regarding the 11+ exam and moving to secondary school. This will be held on 11.6.15.

Values:

During this term we have focused on responsibility, trust, and resourcefulness

In June our foci will be love and happiness and in July, courage.

Next year we are refining our approach slightly. We are working on identifying twenty-two values, one of which will be focused on each month and spread over two years.

These are reflected in assemblies and class PSHE sessions with each class having a display in the class. It was suggested that we could look at rewarding the children for demonstrating behaviour that links with these values.

Building Learning Power: (Reciprocity, Resourcefulness, Resilience and Reflectiveness)

Since January, we have focused on one of the four Rs each month. The children have responded to well to this and have shared their learning in assemblies.

During next half term, achievement certificates will focus on identifying which of the 4 Rs the children have demonstrated.

An audit of how we are developing this approach as well training for teachers and governors will take place at the end of June to focus on how we take this further during the next academic year.

Sports events and trips:

The following competitions have taken place and children from Loud water school have competed: Year five cycling, KS1 & KS2 Tennis.

The following competitions are planned: Summer games for Year six pupils, Tri golf finals for Y4 pupils and girls' football finals for Y5 & Y6 girls.

School sports day will take place on 12.6.15.

Governor information;

Training undertaken by governors has focused on:

- Engaging with parents.
- SEN Forum.
- Spiritual Moral Social and Cultural Values and Ofsted.
- Gifted & Talented.

Governors have visited the following classes this term: Foundation Stage, Year one, Year two, Year three, Year four and Year six. Year five will be visited during the second half of the summer term. Governors have also visited the school to meet with the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator and the Head teacher about the provision made for children eligible for the Pupil Premium. A date will be arranged for a meeting with the Literacy co-ordinator.

Governors conducted and analysed the survey at the April parent/teacher consultations and have discussed the results at recent Governors meetings.

Meetings held this half term have been Raising Achievement Committee, Curriculum & Admissions Committee and Finance Personnel and Premises Committee where the school budget was agreed.

FOLS information

There was no FOLS information, however the summer fete was discussed as a separate agenda item.

Feedback from class representatives.

A parent had asked why the school did not have an adventure play area. It was explained that there were issues regarding supervising and siting such a playground.

There was also a concern expressed about communication between mid-day supervisors and teaching staff regarding incidents that may occur at lunchtime. Clare Cunnington explained that key pieces of information should be shared, but if an incident was judged as relatively minor, it may not be passed on to the class teacher. Clare Cunnington will speak to all staff to ensure sure that the expectations about the kind of information that should be shared are fully understood.

Feedback from Pupil and Parental Surveys

Surveys were carried out in January, where the parents and key stage 2 pupils were surveyed about their views of the school. At the parent/teacher consultation meetings in April, parents were surveyed using the Ofsted parental survey.

The results of the April survey were shared at the meeting:

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	unanswered
1. My child is happy at the school.	64%	35%	0.5%	0.5%	
2. My child feels safe at the school.	67%	32%	1%		
3. My child makes good progress at this school.	53.5%	45%	0.5%	1%	
4. My child is well looked after at this school.	64%	34%	2%		
5. My child receives appropriate homework for their age.	47%	44%	8%	0.5%	0.5%
6. This school makes sure its pupils are well behaved.	50%	45%	4%	1%	
7. This school deals effectively with bullying.	39%	47%	5%	2%	7%
8. The school is well led and managed.	58.5%	39%	2%		0.5%
9. This school responds well to any concerns I raise.	47%	46%	5%		2%
10. I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress.	55%	43%	1%	0.5%	0.5%
11. Would you recommend this school to another parent?	97%	2%	1%		

The response rate to the survey was 79%

For question 5, parents who felt that the amount of homework was not appropriate were divided as to whether this was because they felt there was too much or not enough.

For question 7, a number of the parents who left the question unanswered explained that they had done so because their child had no experience of bullying.

January questionnaire responses

The response rate for this questionnaire was 62.4%.

Parents gave an excellent overall rating of 80.7% satisfaction.

55% said that the school had improved over the last year, whilst 7% said the school's performance had worsened.

30% of new parents felt that the school was better than they expected it to be. Two% said it had not lived up to their expectations.

Parents were least happy with out of school activities, library facilities and the range of subjects taught.

Parents' top priorities for improvement are out of school activities, developing potential and school facilities.

The pupil response rate was 90% of KS2 pupils.

The children felt they were making most progress in French, topic and science.

In non-academic areas, they were happy with control of bullying (86%), developing moral values (86%), computer access (86%) and out of school activities (85%).

Responses from pupils also revealed that sometimes during topic work they were not certain which subject area they were focusing on. We have discussed as a staff the need to signpost this to children to develop this awareness.

Summer Fete

It had been discussed at FOLS meetings how the workload of the summer fete could be shared if each year group took responsibility for a stall:

Foundation Stage: Lucky ducks

Year one: Lucky dip

Year two: Olympic torch

Year three: Ping pong jars

Year four: Penalty shoot out

Year five: Coconut Shy

Year six: Crafts and jewellery making

The parent forum reps at the meeting thought that this would be a good idea and would share this with parents in their classes. They would aim to organise half hour slots where volunteers would operate the stalls. Donna agreed to liaise with Year five parents and Clare would let Fahad know what had been discussed.

Playground and lunchtime activities

It was confirmed that children are allowed to do handstands and cartwheels when playing on the field. All staff members are aware of this.

It was also confirmed that children are able to change their shoes at playtimes and lunchtimes.

Recent gastro-bug update

At the beginning of May, a significant number of children had been affected by a vomiting bug. Initially we were concerned that the vomiting could have been linked to school meals. The children absent and what they had for lunch was quickly checked and there were no patterns. A number of effected children had eaten a packed lunch.

As this was a sudden outbreak, Public Health England was contact by the school for advice. A letter with their recommendations was sent home with the newsletter on 1.5.15. Their recommendations were followed in school. These included a deep clean of the toilets, washbasins, door handles and push panels. Where children had vomited on carpets these were professionally cleaned. Dressing up clothes in Foundation Stage were washed and soft toys sponge wiped and then not used for a week.

Numbers affected by the bug decreased dramatically after the bank holiday although there were still a few absences. On a normal school week, there are often a small number of children who are absent due to sickness; we are now at a point where such absences are at a "normal" level.

Fun Run 12.7.15

Once again, we are encouraging children to enter the fun run and raise money for FOLS by being sponsored for entering. This year FOLS will not pay the entrance fee for the children, instead this

money should be subtracted from the money raised before it is sent back to school. More information, including sponsor forms will be available after half term, via the newsletter. We need to make sure the start time is clear and accurate.

Items for the next agenda

This was not discussed, but it was agreed that the next meeting should be held in September.

AOB

Home-learning tasks

Parents at the meeting felt that homework was most easily managed when the homework book was sent home each week with any sheets or details of work contained in a plastic wallet at the front of the book.

It was felt that in some classes the children had not been taught to use the homework planner appropriately and that tasks were just randomly written or stuck into the planner. These areas will be explored in order to make the system better for September.

Attendance at Parents' Forum

Concern was raised about the number of parents who attended the meeting. We discussed ways in which more parents could be encouraged to attend:

- It would be beneficial to ensure that the purpose of the forum was clear through the website and through information given to new Foundation Stage parents.
- The class representatives would put slips in children's book bags asking for contact details to be updated, as some are now out of date from the original list given.
- There should be information at the summer fete and parents' evenings to encourage parents to attend.
- The class representatives could be changed to encourage others to take on the role and attend the meetings.
- Next time parents are surveyed they should be a question about how they would like to see the forum operate and items they would like to be addressed.
- Kelly Sears offered to provide cakes at the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.