

LOUDWATER COMBINED SCHOOL

Parents' Forum Minutes

12.11.15 7pm

Apologies: Barbra Robinson, Andy McNeill & Jean Howard

Those present: Larissa Bashir (Chair), Kelly Sears, Mohammed Ashraff (Ash), Paul Randall, Kelly Greenlee, Amanda Peirce Collinao, Steve Andrews, Donna Floyd, Shelley Sheppard, Lauren Whiting, Sandra Brewer, Andy Foweather, Debbie Sarl, Fahad Ibrar, Belinda Welland, Jackie Olcot, Debbie Weston, Clare Cunningham

It was noted that this was a very good turnout of parents for the meeting and their attendance was greatly appreciated.

School items from Clare Cunningham

- Children have settled well into their new classes
- Roald Dahl dress up day was held during September and was enjoyed by all.
- We are having a superhero mufti day for Children in Need on 13.11.15.
- The week beginning 16.11.15 is national Anti-bullying week. This will be discussed in assemblies and Key Stage 2 will be participating in some drama and role play from a visiting theatre group.
- An information meeting was held for Y5 & 6 parents regarding changes to KS 2 assessment, this also included information about e-safety. A similar meeting is planned for Y1 & 2 parents in the spring term. A meeting has been held for FS parents focusing on Phonics.

Visitors and visits:

- FS: Pebbles the dog. People who help us: nurse, planned from Mrs Surridge in her role as crossing patroller, fire fighter.
- Y1: Food tasting from Tesco's
- Y4: Living Rainforest trip
- Y5: Planned visit to the science museum (this was cancelled due to safety concerns. Instead the children will be participating in a day of science activities in school led by Oxford Science)
- Y6: Rye to link with topic work
- KS1: Perform drama workshop focusing on myths and legends.
- KS2 Drama production linked to anti bullying
- School Council – Houses of Parliament visit

Children are beginning to practice for Christmas plays. Key stage 1 is "Christmas around the world" and Key stage 2 is "Archibald's War."

During the last week of term there will be a Christmas lunch for the pupils, a disco and activities and the Church service.

In January we will be running a Triple P Parenting course. It will be held at St Paul's church and any parents who wish to enrol for this course should let the school office know.

Governor information from Paul Randall

So far this term we have held the following meetings, Raising Achievement, Curriculum & Admissions and Finance Personnel & Premises.

On Monday 16th November we have our Full Board meeting. We also have further meetings next month for Curriculum & Admissions and the Finance Personnel & Premises Committees.

At the beginning of new school year, the Governing Body received training on preparation for an Ofsted Inspection which was relevant to the new inspection framework that was in place from September. Teaching staff also joined this training which they found extremely helpful and highlights how closely the staff and governors work together.

During this term Governors have also been involved with visiting the school for various meetings and/ or Focus Visits into class or with subject leaders.

Further visits into classes as well as meetings with subject leaders are being planned for the remainder of this term.

I am fortunate that members of the Governing Body continue to work extremely hard.

FOLS updates from Mohammed Ashraff (Ash)

- Ash introduced himself as the new Chair of FOLS.
- Minutes from the AGM on 8.10.15 were circulated.
- Donna Floyd has agreed to continue in the role of Treasurer until a successor can be found.
- There will be some changes to events organised and to make this work it will be essential to recruit more volunteers to share the work and organisation necessary.
- Hopefully parents will support a range of social events such as quizzes or race nights.
- In previous years the children have designed Christmas cards which have been then commercially produced; unfortunately this year there is not time to do this again this year.
- There will be a disco at the end of term, during school time for all pupils.
- A FOLS meeting will be organised in the next 7-10 days to be held in the Derehams pub.

Christmas Bazaar

This will be held on Friday 11.12.15 from 3.00-4.30pm. It will be on a smaller scale to previous Bazaars and will involve each class running a stall, in a similar way to previous "Enterprise Weeks". There will also be refreshments and we will need volunteers to help with this.

Parents' items

Items raised:

- Arrangements for pupils' access to drinking water in Year 3 were questioned as some children were returning home with a virtually full water bottle at the end of the day. Arrangements are the same as in other classes, there is a tray in the classroom where bottles are stored and children may sip from their bottle as they want to.
- There were some concerns about the cleanliness of the Year 5 boys' toilets – CC will discuss this with Mr Clarke.
- Some parents were finding it difficult to view the newsletter on their mobile phones, these tended to be iphones or ipads – no changes have been made to the format in which the newsletter is sent out. Ash offered to explore why this might be the case.

- It was asked whether pupils need clothing for netball for example skirts. As most netball teams are now mixed this may not be appropriate, however Kelly Sears was going to investigate the possibility of sourcing shorts which could be worn by a netball team.
- There was a question as to whether children from Year 3 were able to join the choir beyond being part of the Christmas production.
- Some children had come home particularly dirty after painting. Parents asked if they could send in shirts for children to wear at such times, this can be done however, there is a number of these available to use so class teachers will be reminded to make these available to children when painting.
- A Dad from Foundation Stage has asked if it would be possible to have a meeting for Dads so they can get to know each other. CC and Governors will look into arranging a meeting.
- There were concerns about the quality of school jumpers which has been a concern with those purchased recently. The badge has begun to bubble and the quality of the sweat shirt had deteriorated after only a few washes, the buttons had broken on a cardigan. Parents were advised to take the sweat shirts back to the shop as it would appear that they were not fit for purpose. CC to write to uniform shop with these concerns.

Class representatives:

New class representatives were identified as well as those “moving up”. Fahad Ibrar has stood down as Ibrahim has now left the school; he was thanked for the time he had spent as a class rep.

Foundation Stage: Shelley Sheppard (Mum of Logan and Thomas in Y2)

Year 1: Kelly Sears (Mum of Oscar and Grace in Y5)

Year 2: Lauren Whiting (Mum of Amy)

Year 3: Kelly Greenlee (Mum of Shannon and Keira in FS)

Year 4: Barbra Robinson (Mum of Kiona and Joshua in Y3)

Year 5: Steve Andrews (Dad of Beth and Eleanor in Y3) & Zoe Green (Mum of Jake and Ella in Y3)

Year 6: Vacant

If you would like to be involved as a class representative it is possible to share the role – even advisable! Please get in touch with the class rep to discuss this.

Parking

There have been some challenges with parking in the Mead car park. However these appear to have been resolved now that there are areas for stays of up to 2 hours and no return within 2 hours which means that these can be used at school drop off times by parents. An item will be included on the newsletter to remind parents to use these spaces and not to park on the verges near to the car park in Kingsmead Road.

Swimming pool

A suggestion was put forward to develop the school swimming pool to give more access to the swimming pool for longer periods by enclosing the pool for year round use. It was explained that this had been explored when the pool was refurbished 8 years ago. The cost of doing this was found to be prohibitive.

The meeting closed at 7.50pm

A date will be set for a spring term meeting in January 2016