

Parents' Forum meeting Wednesday 16th November at 7.00pm.

Meeting minutes

Attendees: Kelly Greenlee, Sandra Brewer, Shelley Sheppard, Paula Lee, Jean Howard, Jackie Subhan, Nicky Springle, Steve Andrews, Andy McNeill, Barbara Robinson, Nancy Smith, Belinda Welland, Clare Cunningham

Apologies: Kelly Leary, Paul Randall & Rachel Burch

Terms of reference: These were distributed. It was agreed that since these were written the frequency of the meetings had become termly rather than half termly.

Election of class representatives:

Foundation Stage: Jackie Subhan and Nancy Smith agreed to share the role.

The following class representatives agreed to continue:

Y1 Shelley Sheppard

Y2 Kelly Leary

Y3 Lauren Whiting

Y4 Kelly Greenlee

Y6 Steve Andrews

Y5 Barbara Robinson will be standing down as her family are relocating to South Africa. Andy McNeill agreed to take on the role of Y5 representative.

Updates from school and any questions

It has been a busy start to the new term. We have welcomed new children and staff, all of whom have settled in well.

Areas of the school ground have been improved: In the Key Stage 2 playground we now have the Web Explorer play frame which is used by all children on a rota basis. This is very popular with the children and is used throughout playtimes and lunchtimes. This was funded by a Lottery grant and a donation from FOLS. During the summer break the Outdoor learning area has been developed. This was possible because of a Tesco grant, which the school council took a lead role in securing.

There are a number of new initiatives this term:

We are now holding values assemblies at the end of each month led by a different class with parents invited to attend. At the end of each month individuals are nominated to receive a values award for demonstrating any of our values. We have also re-launched lunchtime awards to encourage positive behaviour and to reward those children who have been particularly helpful.

Using our Sports Premium grant, we have bought in to a county wide package known as LEAP. This package provides training for our teachers, coaches to teach various aspects of PE and interschool competitions. So far our children have competed in basketball, hockey & football with a badminton tournament later this week.

A number of our year 5 & 6 children have attended a maths challenge and a history challenge at Davenies in Beaconsfield with other local schools. The school council has engaged with Travel

Trackers to encourage more children to walk to school more of the time. This is something the children seem to enjoy, particularly winning badges at the end of each month.

Y6 House captains represented the school at the Remembrance Service at St Peter's church. Poppies made by all our children were given out to the congregation to plant at the war memorial in the shape of a giant poppy, which we took children to see on Monday.

We also took part in the annual Roald Dahl dress up day & we focused our writing around Roald Dahl too. McMillan Coffee morning was a huge success; the baking challenge was well received which meant that we were able to sell cakes at the end of the afternoon to boost the amount raised. Thanks to FOLS for their help with this. All children participated in a Harvest assembly where each class focused on a different country and their harvest traditions. We collected items for the Wycombe Homeless Connection. During October we celebrated black history month. Classes researched black people who were artists, writers, musicians, scientists and computer programmers (this depended on the areas of the curriculum that the class teacher was responsible for). School council organised a non-uniform day to raise funds for Cancer Research and there is a Mufti day for Children In Need on Friday.

There have been a range of visits and visitors to enhance the curriculum:

- Y6 have visited the Rye
- Y2 have visited Wycombe Museum
- Ox Science have visited school and worked with Y1 focusing on animals, Y2 on materials and Y5 & Y6 visited their planetarium
- Y1 had a visit from Tesco for food tasting
- Y3 have visited Shortenills,
- All children visited the war memorial – parents at the meeting appreciated what the school had done towards the remembrance commemoration.

Looking ahead:

Christmas Bazaar is on Friday 9th December from 3-5pm and will coincide with a whole school enterprise week.

Christmas plays – the children have started to practice. Performances are on 13th December – KS2 and 14th & 15th – KS1

Christmas lunch and jumper day are planned for 16th December

Church service – morning of 19th December

Christmas Disco and parties – afternoon of 19th December

Updates from governors and any questions

As Paul Randall (CoG) was unable to attend the meeting, Andy McNeill (vice CoG) informed the meeting of the governors' work this term.

So far this year the Governing Body has had meetings of the following committee's;

- Curriculum & Admissions
- Finance Personnel & Premises
- Full Governing Body

Tomorrow night we have meetings back to back for Curriculum & Admissions, Raising Achievement and Finance Personnel & Premises.

The Governing Body work extremely hard in ensuring that it supports the school and challenges it to improve even further and plays an active role in monitoring various aspects of the school, so far this term there have been Governor Focus Visits on the following;

Class Visits to;

- EYFS
- Y2,
- Y3
- Y6
- The Year 2 class trip to Wycombe Museum

Years 1 and 4 will be visited before the end of this term.

There have also been meetings between Governors and Leaders for the following areas;

- SEN
- Pupil Premium
- Maths
- Literacy
- Modern Foreign Languages
- Sports Premium Funding
- Safeguarding & Prevent
- EYFS
- Equalities
- PSHE

Governors complete a written report for each visit, which is evaluated at the next Governors Meeting

Updates from FOLS and any questions

Natalie Ross and Kelly Wise (Y2 mums) are arranging a meal at Mr India on 30/11/16. The cost is £20 with £5 going to FOLS – please contact either Natalie or Kelly if you would like a ticket.

There was a request from Kelly Leary for parent representatives to help with Christmas Bazaar – could class representative collect names of those who may be able to help please.

Items from class representatives

There has been some disruption to the issuing of home-learning tasks in Y4. This was noted and will be remedied. Whilst more tasks are now IT based it was stressed that this did not mean that handwriting was still a very important skill, which we continue to place a high level of emphasis on in all lessons.

The school was not given the option for all children to have the flu vaccination earlier this term.

Although this week is national anti-bullying week we have not chosen to have a particular focus on this at this time. Such issues are discussed as relevant and in the context of our school values. All children sign up to the anti-bullying charter each year.

It was highlighted that some children are unsure about when to have their lunch prior to attending clubs – this will be clarified with the children.

We need to make sure that all children have cloths to use to clean their white boards.

Some parents have commented on Y6 lunchtime duties – concerns were that children did not like doing a duty and that sometimes they did not have time to eat their lunch. It was explained that the practice of Y6 lunch duty has been in place for a considerable number of years with no previous concerns raised. It is part of a range of roles and responsibilities children have once they are in Y6. It was explained that each child completes a duty approximately every 8 school days and that this is for approximately 30 mins. Four children are on duty at a time and they spend the time helping the younger children and clearing plates (15 mins each task). The children should therefore have the remaining 30 minutes to eat their lunch.

Parents at the meeting were positive about the Y6 duty; it was described as character building by one. Parents of younger children commented on how much their children enjoyed the support of the older children at lunchtime and that this helped to develop friendships between older and younger children.

Any other business

Concerns were shared about the number of parents who are driving up School Way on a Wednesday at 4.30 when rehearsals finish. One child came very close to being hit by a car that should not have been there. This will be focused on in the newsletter.

There had also been some issues with older children barging through others as they walked on the pathway to the car park. Mrs Welland has identified who these children are and will address this with them.

It was raised that pupils who attended one of the sports events did not wear the Loudwater polo shirts. We will make sure that they do in future.

It was recognised that the support offered by Sharon Edwards our Parenting Support Advisor had made a significant difference to a number of children and families.

Concern was expressed about the condition of the area of land to the side of the KS 1 gate where the Brownies previously maintained a garden. This quickly becomes waterlogged when the weather is wet. It was suggested that this could be tarmacked over and an alternative space in the school offered to the Brownies if they wanted to maintain a garden in future. This will be explored.

In the future parents suggested that it would be a worthwhile activity for the school to support the “Shoebox for Christmas” initiative. It was suggested that this year we could participate in the One Can Trust’s Reverse Advent Calendar appeal. This will be explored – Nicky Springle to provide link.

Future agenda items

Class representatives were asked to explore this with their class’ parents.

The Home Learning Policy was identified as a future item.

The meeting closed at 8.00pm