

LOUDWATER COMBINED SCHOOL
Parents' Forum Minutes
25.2.2016 7pm

Apologies: Barbra Robinson, Kellie Greenlee, Larissa Bashir.

Those present: Paul Randall, Clare Cunningham, Kelly Sears, Jackie Olcot, Mrs Woodison, Mrs Welland, Jean Howard, Shelley Sheppard, Lauren Whiting, Donna Floyd, Rachel Burch, Nicky, Stephen Andrews, Amanda Pierce Collinao, Natalie Ross, Debby Sarl.

It was decided that the Parents forum should be held in the Yr. 6 Classroom so a demonstration of Agenda item 4 could be carried out.

Behavior Policy review:

The school have reviewed the policy and sent a copy out in the newsletter on the 5.2.2016 for parents to read, Parents evening was held week commencing 8th February where they were given a questionnaire to fill out regarding the policy. (Please find attached the results given out at the parent's forum)

Donna Floyd asked if the results are going to be shared with all parents? Mrs Cunningham said they would be via the newsletter before the end of term.

Kelly Sears raised a few questions around the policy:

- **Rewards:** There a range of awards for good attendance, over the term or school year for individual pupils. A lot of parents feel that the monthly class reward is a good reward but an unfair reward. Children are missing out on receiving this reward because it is done as a whole class and it is not in the children's control as to whether their friend turns up at school and its not really the child's fault if they attend school every day and their friend is poorly.
Discussion held and ideas given by all who attended, the school have agreed that for the month of March it will be done on individual attendance which will be announced before the Easter break and the children who have 100% attendance for this month can have a mufti day on the last day of term.
- Lunchtime Superstar Reward: what is this reward? Children at the school have not heard of it, why is it in the Policy? Mrs Cunningham informed this reward has been overlooked and the school will look at starting this reward again.
- Children who have been disruptive or inappropriate behaviour are logged in a book and this is submitted to the head teacher at the end of every week. What happens at the end of the week by the head teacher when this is looked at?
Mrs Cunningham explained that the children are called to her office on a Monday and spoken to. If further steps are needed then they will be discussed at this point, if it was a serious case it would not be left till the end of the week and dealt with during the week.
- There is book for recording yellow and red cards at lunchtime. The policy states this is returned to the office at the end of lunchtime. Parents would like reassurance that communication is made between lunchtime supervisors and teachers has children

mention things that happen on the playground and when talking to teachers they are not aware. Mrs Olcot and Mrs Welland both reassured the parents who attended that they are always spoken to at the end of lunch breaks should anything have happened.

Upcoming events at school

- Thursday 3rd March Year 3 Class Assembly
- Thursday 3rd March Choir Rehearsals at Wycombe Swan.
- Friday 4th March World Book Day.
- Monday 7th March School Photos.
- Monday 14th March Shakespeare Week (workshops will be held).
- Thurs/Sat 17th & 19th Choir performing at Wycombe Swan
- Friday 18th March Sports Relief – school will do a fundraising walk a mile with the children.
- School closes on Thursday 24th March at 2pm.

Funding for the nature Development Area:

Our School Council has been successful in being shortlisted for a Tesco Bags of Help grant, which could be up to £12,000, to fund our nature area. The final funding decision rests with shoppers at local Tesco stores. Customer voting is between 27th February and 6th March. When you make a purchase, each customer will be given a token and asked to place their token in the box of the project of their choice. At the end of the voting period, funding will be decided. The school would really appreciate all parents' help in making sure that Loudwater School is successful by voting for the School Council's project when you visit any of these local Tesco stores:

Loudwater Superstore, Wooburn Express, Wycombe North Express, Wycombe South Express, Wycombe London Road Express, Wycombe Chapel Lane Express, Plomer Green Avenue Express, New Road (Turnpike) Express, Hatters Lane Express, High Wycombe Superstore, Princes Risborough Superstore,

A copy of the proposed nature area will be attached to the newsletter on the 26.2.2016 for all parents to see.

The school is also taking the Sainsbury's active kids vouchers and will make all parents aware on the newsletter.

Demonstration of the new interactive screen:

Mrs Welland showed us the new interactive screen that has been purchased with the school budget and how the children are benefiting from it and also how they too can use the screen, The school purchased 2 new screens which are located in year 6 & year 1.

We were shown a short film that the children did so we could really see how its like watching a TV screen, it was explained how with the old smart screens that the school had previously, unfortunately should it be a bright day then the children were unable to see the screens therefore couldn't really benefit from the system, the smart screens where very noisy and because they needed to be on for long periods would heat up very quickly which sometimes meant the teachers would need to turn off the smart screens to allow them to cool down before turning back on. The old smart screens would also require a large projector to be screwed to the ceiling where as with the new interactive screen these can simply be wired in to a laptop or computer.

Currently Mrs Olcot in year 2 has an old smart screen, which the school has had for 11 years and the sound no longer works, which isn't ideal when trying to teach the children. Ideally the school would like to purchase another 5 so there is one in each classroom.

Questions asked:

Does the school have any IT budget for these?

Paul Randall informed that the school budget has not been announced and due the changes by the government on how schools are budgeted the school may be receiving less than last year.

Would anyone be against the purchase?

One parent expressed that she was worried the children are engaging too much into technology and she would like to see more fun items and money spent on workshops for the children to do. Amanda Pierce Collinao, one of the school governors explained that she feels it is important for the school to keep up to date with the technology but understands the concerns and that maybe there could be a balance that FOLS could help with the balance.

Is the new interactive screen compatible with any software?

Mrs Welland explained yes it was she has different leads for all different devices.

AOB:

- Please could the school website be updated?
It was reported that there were photos of children on the website who are no longer at the school. Whilst no photos of children who were no longer at the school were found on the class pages, these are now up to date.
- Homework: Parents feel that the homework given during the school breaks is too much and the children should be allowed a break. They will the consistency and content various so much. Parents who have joint custody say this is unfair, year 5 children have extra homework already from extra 11+ Tuition, some parents say they shouldn't be expected to do homework on their family holidays.
It was discussed and a suggestion was made that when homework is set for the school breaks the teachers maybe put at the bottom of the homework should any parents have any queries or difficulties in completing the homework then to see the teacher before the children break up.
Mrs Cunningham agreed that the school would look at the consistency of the homework handed out for school breaks.
- Holiday fines: Does Loudwater School have a policy in place?
The school has an Attendance for Learning Policy which can be found on the school website. Paul Randall & Mrs Cunningham explained the parent needs to put in writing when they would like the child to have time off and for what reason, it would be discussed at a governors meeting where a decision will be made if it was authorised leave or not. If the school does not authorise the time off then the school will inform the Attendance Team at Bucks Council who may impose a fine which is currently £60 per child, per parent, per week.
- Does or is the school looking into disabled facilities?
- Mrs Cunningham mentioned the school is currently in talks with the local council regarding some adaptations which may be needed to help meet the needs of a particular child. The toilet in the year 6 area has recently been made into a disabled toilet.
- School Meals: Parents still having issues with what their children are saying they are

receiving, Dolce ran out of pizza a week back and the children ended up with toast, Mrs Cunningham expressed that if any parent has any issues with the school meals please inform the school immediately, the school does keep a log and are in constant communication with the owner and chef at Dolce who are keen to help improve the system. This will be mentioned in the school newsletter.

- Lunch Boxes: Children who take a packed lunch to school are going home saying the lunch supervisors are not allowing them to eat their lunch because it maybe a chocolate bar or something.

Mrs Cunningham explained they children should never be told they cannot eat their lunch just advised it may not be suitable for a pack lunch and should they continue bringing similar items in then the school would talk to the parents. Mrs Cunningham said she would talk to all lunchtime staff.

- Concern has been raised over the supervision of children after school when collecting. Parents are aware of children running down the hill and should Mrs Surridge be off this is very dangerous, children/siblings are climbing the wall outside the reception when parents are collecting children from KS1 area. Suggestions were made that the children are reminded of the areas they are and are not allowed before and after school and reminded that they are role models for the school at all times.
- What's happening with the woodland area that was cleared last summer?
There are no firm plans as yet but should additional funding be received from the Tesco grant this is an area where it could be used.
- Could all the inset days be put together so the children have an extra week off school?
This is not possible as these days are for ongoing professional development for the teachers'.
- Parking Issues: school to reiterate in the newsletter that the car park is now empty for school drop off and pick up please could all parents use as parking on the roads in the local area is causing a concern over the safety of the children.
- Could either the school or FOLS look at what the children have on the playground either as playground markings or equipment, parents feel there is not enough to engage the children at break other than to run around.
- Parents looking to do any extra activities in the holidays a useful site would be www.bucksfamilyinfo.org.uk this website often has free activities and days out.