

Loudwater Combined School

Parents Forum Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: 14th October 2014 @ 7pm. 15th October 2014 @ 9.30

Attendees: 14.10 Clare Cunningham, Paul Randal,, Kelly Greenlee, Zoe Green, Sandra Brewer, Steve Andrews, Belinda Welland, Jackie Olcot, Paul Wakelin, Donna Floyd, Heidi McNeill, Christina Da Silva.

15.10 Clare Cunningham, Andy McNeill, Kelly Bridle, Debbie Sarl, Wesley Weber, Kate Harop.

Apologies: Barbara Robinson & Victoria Ashraff

Chaired: Larissa Bashir

Minutes: Larissa Bashir

AGENDA

- Welcome & Apologies.
- School Information
- Governor Information
- FOLS information
- Feedback from class representatives (if any)
- Parents Driving up the hill to collect children
- New children joining Loudwater School
- Update on Free School Meals for Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1
- Recruitment of teachers
- The New National Curriculum including cooking and nutrition
- Sports Competitions
- Home Learning Tasks and feedback.
- Any other business (to be notified at the start of the meeting)
- Items for next agenda
- Date and time of next meeting

School Information

Foundation Stage have settled in extremely well into their new class and the new staff and staff in their new roles have also settled in well.

We have held a MacMillan Coffee morning which raised over £90.00

Children came to school dressed up for Roald Dahl dress up day which the children all enjoyed.

- School Trips:-
- Year 5 have had a visit from Astrodome which is part of their topic on Space Explorers.
- Year 6 visited The Rye for their topic which is Tourism & Places and Year 6 will be visiting Green Park in June.

E-safety presentations have been carried out in the school which is part of the curriculum in ICT.

Year 5/6 will be eligible to take part in Bikeability which teaches them about safety on their bicycles.

Parent Evening Consultations will take place next week where parents will be informed of their children's targets and progress.

The school will also provide Information Meetings for parents from Foundation Stage to attend on Phonics and Reading and more information will soon be available.

The children have also been taking part or will be taking part in a number of Sporting Events through Bucks Sports – this is through the funding provided by the Sports Premium money allocated to each school.

Year 6 participated in Handball competitions.

Year 5 will be participating in a Basketball competition.

Years 5/6 will be participating in a girls football competition.

Years 3 /4 will be participating in a badminton competition

Year 3/4 will be participating in a hockey competition.

For these competitions the children will be able to wear the new Loudwater School sports t-shirts and the t-shirts will be kept at school and children asked to return these at the end of the competition.

On Wednesday 15th October is No Pens Wednesday which is to promote communications skills particularly oral skills and parents were welcome to come in and read with their children.

The new National curriculum is now in place throughout the school and Foundation Stage remains unchanged until September 2015. As part of the new national curriculum there are new topics and new assessments where new tests will be introduced. Please note this is with exception of Year 2 and Year 6. Children will be set challenging new targets and information will be provided to all parents on the new assessments for Reading, Writing and Mathematics.

Free School Meals in KS1 – this has been a new challenge for the school and there have been a few teething problems however the glitches are now starting to be few and far between and we will look at providing hot school meals for the rest of the school during the next term. Overall though the children are enjoying their meals and eating well!

Governor Information

Paul Randall advised that during the first part of the term the Governors have been exceptionally busy :-half term the Governors have met at all committee meetings and carried out the following:

- Governors have attended various training sessions including Pupil Premium – bridging the gap, Safeguarding, Sports Premium, Ofsted Taking One Step Ahead and Outdoor Learning Training.

- Governors have assisted in the recruitment process for the new Deputy Headteacher and have been part of the interview process with new class teachers.
- Governors have met at the Raising Achievement Committee, Finance Personal & Premises Committee, Curriculum and Admissions Committee and have attended a Full Governing Board Meeting.
- Governors have also been into school to visit the Literacy, SEN and Pupil Premium Co-ordinators as well as visit Years 1, 3 and 5.
- Governors will also be attending the Parent Teachers Evenings next week.

FOLS information

Paula Wakelin informed the meeting that the FOLS AGM was carried out where she thanked everyone for making last year so successful with the fundraising for FOLS.

At the AGM an update was provided on the finances and it was discussed about the allocation of funds going forward in line with the long term/short term plans for the school.

FOLS will be holding a Christmas Disco on the 18th December, the School Bazaar on the 6th December, organising Christmas cards, and Christmas presents.

FOLS will also be attending the Parent Teachers Meetings in order to raise awareness of FOLS and hopefully recruit some more helpers.

It was also mentioned that the Fun Run held in July was a great success not only with raising over £1000.00 for FOLS and that the children absolutely loved the run and would like to do it again!

Class Representations - Feedback

It was agreed that the following parents would be happy to continue with their role of Class Representatives for the following year:-

Year 1 – Fahad Ibrar – to be confirmed.

Year 2 – Kelly Greenlee.

Year 3 – Barbara Robinson to be confirmed.

Year 4 – Steve Andrews.

Year 5 – A new representative is required – if anyone from Year 5 would like to take on this role please contact either Larissa or the school office.

Year 6 – Larissa Bashir.

Foundation Stage – A representative is required.

All parents would be contacted again to confirm their contact details.

Breakfast Club

It was commented by a parent that when parents are dropping off their children in the morning they must take the children to the school hall and inform a member of staff that their children is on the school premises.

Parents Driving Up The Hill

It has been noted that a number of parents are continually driving up the school hill before or after school. A letter will once again be produced and sanctions will be taken.

Clare will also contact the taxi companies and ask them if they could not come up to school until 3.45 pm.

It was also noted that children are running down the hill on the road and it was agreed that parents must be responsible for their children and a letter would be sent out to all parents advising them of the safety issue of the children walking down from school.

LB is attending the Loudwater Forum meeting in November and she will raise the question of a barrier at the bottom of the hill.

New Children Joining Loudwater School

One question raised at the forum was regarding new children joining Loudwater School. Clare advised that the school is unable to refuse a child a place at Loudwater School. If a place is available the school has to accept the application.

In exceptional circumstances such as a disability or special education need, the school would need to assess whether we have the necessary resources required to support the child.

Update on Free School Meals for Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1

Year 6 help with lunchtime duties and Clare wanted to assure all parents that they wash their hands or wear gloves if in direct contact with food as per the same protocol for the Catering Staff.

It was also noted that parents are very impressed by the service provided by Dolce.

Clare said the timings of lunches was tight but manageable.

It was also noted that can all parents please ensure the school meals are selected before 9.30 am as otherwise this can cause a delay to the school day.

Recruitment of Teachers

Clare explained in detail how teachers are recruited at Loudwater School. There are many elements of recruiting staff and one of these is for a potential teacher to go into a class either a year above or below and teach. The children are asked their feedback and their views are taken very seriously however it must be noted that this is not the only part of the process and other elements of the recruitment process must be taken into account.

Year 5 Teacher – Clare explained that the matter is being dealt with and a letter will be sent to all year 5 parents in the first instance.

The New National Curriculum including Cooking & Nutrition

KS1 & KS2 cooking and nutrition – This is part of the new curriculum and the children will have planned opportunities on a yearly basis. Clare did comment though that children will be required to make mainly savoury dishes. More information will follow soon.

Sports Competition

For the sports that the children do not participate in school – the school tries to provide as much coaching before hand with extra coaching sessions at lunch times. However the sports competitions incorporate the teaching element, as well as the competitive element.

Home Learning Tasks and Feedback

“I am Learning” feedback is provided on screen and children are able to repeat the activity if required – however if children are struggling with a particular activity this can be identified at school and actioned accordingly.

There are various ways a teacher will provide feedback to the children on a particular home learning task - this can be either verbally or work is marked with a written comment.

Date of next meeting

Tuesday 9th December at 9.30 am and 7 pm.