

LOUDWATER COMBINED SCHOOL

Parents' Forum minutes

Meetings held on 17th March 2015 at 9.30am and 7.00pm.

Apologies: Barbra Robinson (Y3 rep)

Attendees:

Morning meeting	Evening meeting
Debbie Sarl (FS rep) Ibrar Fahad (Y1 rep) Victoria Ashraff Andy McNeill Clare Cunnington Sharon Edwards (Family Support Adviser)	Steve Andrews (Y4 rep) Zoe Green Donna Floyd Kelly Sears (FS Rep) Paula Wakelin Antonio Collinao Pizarro Larissa Bashir (Y6 rep) Paul Randall Belinda Welland Jackie Olcot Clare Cunnington Sharon Edwards (Family Support Adviser)

School information (the same information was shared at both meetings)

Outdoor Learning

A meeting was held on 28.1.15. Groups visited different areas of the school grounds to explore the opportunities for learning outdoors.

Areas we have investigated further: Playground markings, bug hotel, surveying the wooded area to assess what needs to be done to make this area usable.

Values and building learning power

During this term we have increased our focus in this area. Monthly focus:

January – Reciprocity, Unity and Respect

February – Reflectiveness & Making the right choices

March – Resilience and Freedom

April & May – Resourcefulness, Responsibility and Trust

These are focused on in assemblies as well as a sharing assembly at the end of each month where the children demonstrate how the learning values have helped them in their learning. These have been inspiring in the way children have been able to identify the impact this had had on their learning

Also information has been shared in class assemblies this term

Staff meetings/training

We have own in-house training each week in school and also staff attend external training courses.

In school

Assessing writing
 Planning for the next term
 Assessment and tracking progress
 Book scrutiny
 Updating safeguarding training

Externally

Raising the profile of reading
 Moving our school towards outstanding
 Assessment in Foundation stage – baseline
 PE information
 Maths
 Managing behaviour

Sports events

Sports funding has been used to enter a range of competitions:

Swimming gala Y6, Winter games Y6, Indoor athletics Y2, Netball Y5, Golf Y4 – Y4 have also had coaching in school PE lessons in this area, Tag rugby – Y6 – also coaching in school.

Next term there will be opportunities for: Cycling Y5/6, Tennis for KS1 and 2 children and Kwik cricket Y5/6.

Assessments

These will take place from the w/b 11.5.15.

For Y6 these dates and tests are externally marked in reading, spelling, grammar and punctuation and maths.

Phonics screening for Y1 w/b 15.6.15 – a meeting for parents will take place on 16.4.15.

New tests have been purchased which enable us to make sure that we are assessing our teaching of the new national curriculum.

We are continuing to implement new ways of assessing the children. This term we are changing our practice to assess against bands and steps in both reading and writing. Similar change will be implemented in maths next term.

Choir – Mrs Heard is currently working with the children on a performance to take place at the Royal Albert Hall in April.

World book day – We all had a fantastic time dressing up for this event. We want to organise more events throughout the year to promote and encourage reading

Parent teacher consultations – There is an additional opportunity for parents to meet with their child's teacher to discuss what children need to focus on in the summer term to meet their end of year targets. These meetings will take place on the 21st and 23rd April.

Comments made on the school information:

Morning meeting: Debbie Sarl questioned why the school does not issue spelling list and have spelling tests. Clare Cunnington explained that the children all have daily phonics or spelling sessions and the teaching focuses on teaching a spelling rule which is then reinforced in class. As a school we believe this to be a more effective way of teaching spelling than children learning from a list as the correct spelling of these words is often not remembered over time.

Evening meeting: Donna Floyd asked about the Headteacher's award and why this is awarded. The award is the same as the Achievement awards given at the end of each week by the class teachers and is given to a child who has impressed Mrs Cunnington by their effort or achievement whilst she has been visiting their class.

It was asked whether there is an adjustment made for the attendance figure for children who may be absent from school on a long-term basis. To date an adjustment has not been made, but this is something that will be done in future.

Governor Information (the same information was shared at both meetings)

During this term Governors have visited all classes apart from year 6. Plans are in place for year 6 to be visited before the end of the term. The areas of focus for the class visits have been the marking and feedback in pupils' books and pupils' reading targets, as well as talking to both pupils and teachers. In Foundation Stage the focus has been on phonics, early reading and the moderation of data. All visits have had written reports completed and discussed at the last Full Board meeting.

The following linked Governors have met with the relevant leaders in school; Numeracy, SEN, Literacy, Equalities and Pupil Premium. Paul Randall has attended a Staff Meeting on Moderation of Writing, offering a good insight on how writing is moderated in comparison to levels and stages.

The following committees have met this half term; Full Board, Curriculum & Admissions at which Mrs Kybert also attended to discuss the progress on Outdoor Learning, Finance Personnel & Premises, which the school bursar attended to discuss the existing budget that closes soon, as well as some initial thoughts around our budget allocation for the next financial year. At this meeting we also completed the Schools Financial Values standard.

The following training has taken place; Induction training days 1, 2, and 3 have been attended by Jenny Woodison, Paul Randall has attended Prevent Strategy training and Educational Visits Training, the whole Governing Body along with the SLT had a training session on Effective Monitoring of the School Plan from an external trainer.

All Governors were in school at some point during the Parent Teacher Consultations. There are plans in place to survey the parents at the next Consultation Evenings in April. Two Governors have attended reintegration meetings. Three Governors and Mr Clarke have carried out a Health and Safety walk. Three Governors attended the Outdoor Learning meeting. Both Andy McNeill and Paul Randall have attended a local Chairs Group meeting. Paul Randall continues to support another Governing Body on behalf of the Learning Trust.

FOLS information

FOLS have organised discos for pupils on 20.3.15 and an Easter colouring competition which will be judged at the end of term.

A point of discussion at their last committee meeting was the possibility of parent reps supporting at the summer fete by organising and manning a particular stall. We also discussed repeating last year's fund raising event by encouraging pupils to run in the fun run held at the same time as the Wycombe half marathon in July. Last year FOLS paid the entrance fee for the race and children were sponsored for taking part. A number of parents and Mrs Cunnington are intending to run the half marathon for sponsorship too.

The next FOLS meeting is on 26th March at 8pm at the Dereham Arms.

There was no feedback from class representatives.

Introduction from Sharon Edwards – Family Support Advisor

My name is Sharon Edwards and I am your newly appointed Family Support Advisor at Loudwater Combined School. Although this is a new role for me, I have many years' experience of helping families to resolve difficulties, improve relationships and generally help them change things for the better.

My role is to ensure that children are ready and able to learn by addressing any problems or concerns that they or members of your family might have, so that they can achieve their best in school whilst feeling safe, happy and supported.

I will be working closely with you to encourage positive family involvement in your child's learning and help you feel part of the school community. I look forward to building close, professional and effective relationships, offering my support, assistance, advice and guidance when necessary.

If you have any family concerns that you think are affecting your child at home or at school please contact me. I can help with:

- Swift and easy access to targeted and specialist services.
- A listening ear, a coffee and a chance to off-load.
- The opportunity to talk about ANY worries you may have.
- Support with attendance problems.
- Support with getting information and with contacting other agencies that can help you with things like housing difficulties, debt, out of school clubs, adult learning opportunities, parenting courses, benefit advice, health issues, bereavement and family relationships.
- Support and advice in relation to any special needs your child may have.
- Strategies and suggestions for managing social, emotional or behavioural difficulties such as anger, lack of confidence, relationship breakdowns, loss, bullying or friendship problems.
- Establishing routines and boundaries at home.
- Transition for newcomers to the school.

My role is to support you and your family by being:

- The key link between home and school
- Professional, Confidential and Trustworthy
- Supportive and Non-judgemental
- Approachable and Understanding
- A good listener
- An advocate

We will always look for new and creative ways to promote the development of positive family/school relationships and will strive to ensure that the school experience is a positive one for both pupils and their families. We therefore welcome any ideas and suggestions from you about ways in which we can continue to improve.

You can find a copy of the information given in this letter on the school website. In addition to this I will be including some useful websites and information for parents which I hope you will find helpful.

If you have any concerns at all, please don't hesitate to contact me or pop in for a coffee and an informal discussion. My working hours are flexible but you can usually contact me on a Tuesday and Thursday.

Appointments can be made through the school office, with me directly or by email at sedwards@loudwater.bucks.sch.uk. Please do leave a message at any time and I will get back to you as soon as I can. I would be more than happy to stop and have a quick chat if you see me on the playground at the end of the day. We can then organise some time together, either at school or in your own home.

I look forward to meeting you and helping to support your family during your time at the school.

School Behaviour Policy Review

It was explained that this document, which can be found on the school's website and was available as a paper copy at both meetings, is reviewed annually. It has been looked at this term by teachers and by the governors and parents have an opportunity to make suggestions about this by the end of term. There were no specific questions about the policy at either meeting. If there are any comments parents wish to make these can be emailed to the school office.

Items for next agenda

- Update on progress on the development of the outdoor environment.
- Feedback on parental and pupil questionnaires.

Any other items can be notified to class representatives or emailed to the school office

Date and time of next meeting

Tuesday 19th May 2015 at 9.30am and 7.00pm. To be held in the school hall.

Any other business

Issues with parking that have again arisen due to increased use of Kingsmead car-park by employees at the business park. The business park have now leased 60 spaces from Wycombe District Council. Larissa Bashir had been to a recent Loudwater Forum meeting where this was discussed and she shared information about recent developments. Wycombe District Council recognise that this situation represents a challenge for the school and will be monitoring the situation.

There was also a discussion about planned development in Gomm Valley.