

Minutes of Meeting of Parents' Forum Tuesday 12th January

Present: Mrs Martin (Headteacher), Mrs Knight (Acting Deputy Headteacher), Mr Ford (CoG), Mrs Herd, Mrs Davies, Mrs Wood, Mrs Arnold, Mrs Smith, Mrs Oakley.

Mrs Martin explained that the Forum would replace the system of Class Reps as the school wanted parents' input into its development plan.

Mrs Knight shared a little of the current SDP by way of background.

Parents were then asked to review the Purpose, Ethos & Values of the school as stated in the SDP (See below).

Review of our Purpose, Ethos & Values

What are the strengths of the school in matching our purpose, ethos and values and delivering high quality education?

- Trips cement learning and are worth the additional costs involved.
- The trips are embedded into the curriculum and the children gain a great deal from them.
- Homework related to the trips is good and raises the profile of the follow up work.
- Putting all of the trip letters together (an experiment in year 5 this year) was helpful and enabled better budgeting.
- Blogs and photos of trips are appreciated by the parents.
- Class assemblies are good – the children enjoy them and are enthusiastic about their learning. Teachers dressing up too adds to the atmosphere of the occasion.
- Assemblies also show the strength of the relationships within the school.
- Music assemblies are great.
- There are lots of clubs and the balance of sports & hobbies is good.
- Teachers coming to the gate at the end of the day is positive and makes us seem more accessible.
- Much praise for the ELSAs and their work.

What are the opportunities for the school to develop further our purpose, ethos and values and deliver high quality education?

- Communicate the value of trips to parents to encourage more support.
- Use the website to inspire – photos and reports from children and parents on the trips, examples of exciting things going on in the school.
- Use blogs to communicate and share with parents.
- Publicise what we do more.
- Increase transparency.
- Involve children who play musical instruments elsewhere to get involved in school performances.

What are the weaknesses of the school in matching our purpose, ethos and values and delivering high quality education?

- Some trips are too busy and can leave some children feeling they have missed out on something. Ensure all trips are well structured.
- The number of paid for clubs is a source of complaint.
- The need for children to become more independent in a Junior school needs to be communicated.
- Our purpose needs to reflect the whole child more – they are not just learners, they are individuals with complex needs.

What are the factors that are stopping the school from matching our purpose, ethos and values and delivering high quality education?

- The increasing number of children with emotional needs.
- Large class sizes.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quality of school meals (maybe already solved)• Not using the grounds as much as we could. | |
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Actions

- Photos of our ELSAs and a description of what they do to go on the website.
- Parents attending the Forum to be invited to assemblies. Mrs Arnold to draw up a rota.
- School to make contributions to the existing Facebook page set up by Mrs Oakley and Mrs Herd. Mrs Oakley to meet with Mrs Martin to organise how this can be done.
- Parent helpers on trips to write a short review of their thoughts and feelings to add to children's write ups.
- School to inform parents that a new cook was in post.
- Mrs Arnold to help Mrs Knight tidy and dispose of lost property as appropriate. Parents to be told that unclaimed lost property will go to 'Phil the bag' in April.
- Long term strategy to be drawn up for using the school field all year round. Research options for storing wellies to enable children to be down on the field for a greater part of the year.
- Parent Forum to meet once a term. Work of the Forum to be publicised to encourage more parents to attend. Timings of the Forum to be considered to maximise attendance (maybe 8am start?)