

# Parents' Forum Meeting

## Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2016, 2.30pm

*Present:* Mrs Turvey, Trudy Hinton, Jules Bond, Leona Bowers, Angela Burgess-Hughes, Helen Covell, Karen Penny, Tracey Phenix, Sam Stone, Rebecca Thomlinson

*Apologies:* Amy Woodhouse

### **Open meeting – no agenda set**

#### **Key Stage 1 Clubs**

A parent had asked if there could be more after school clubs for KS1. Mrs Turvey advised that there is a limited number of staff available to run clubs, and limited space, but will speak to teachers in the Spring term regarding the possibility of sports clubs for the younger children. It was agreed that some parents would be happy to pay for clubs with outside providers. Mrs Turvey will survey parents to gauge their interest.

#### **Behaviour and Discipline Policy**

A parent wished to discuss the school's Behaviour and Discipline policy. Mrs Turvey explained that Wyke's policy focuses on rewards rather than sanctions, with the aim being that children become aware of their own actions and learn to self-discipline. It is important for a child to learn from the situation, overcome it and move past it. Each class has a 'gem jar' which is gradually filled with 'gems' which go towards a whole class reward, eg a DVD and popcorn afternoon or a wheels day.

Achievement assemblies take place each month where two children from each class are chosen for positive reasons, and given a certificate and a sticker as well as have a special song sung to them! Each child is awarded a team colour sticker which is added to the team chart in the hall (these are the same team colours as Sports Day). If they are, for example, awarded a pen licence, they are also given a sticker for their team. At the end of the year the team with the most (including Sports Day points) are awarded the Team Cup.

Mrs Turvey advised that the 'traffic light system' is in use in most classes and is a useful visual aid for children. Each child has a fresh start on green every day. A parent asked if every class could have the traffic light system.

#### **Friendship Bench**

It is thought that some children could be left sitting on the Friendship Bench unnoticed, which is a concern. Mrs Turvey advised that the School Council recently spoke to children about this issue in assembly and encouraged all children to be vigilant for those sitting alone. Mrs Turvey stated that Year 6 children could be responsible for this and will give the matter some thought.

#### **Back Gates**

The gate at the back of the school swings the wrong way. Miss Hinton advised that this issue is in hand.

#### **Safety in the Mornings**

A parent had asked for morning safety to be discussed. Mrs Turvey stated that the expectation is that KS1 parents will stay with their children until the whistle blows at 8.55am. KS2 children are aware that once on the school playground they must not leave the premises and parents may leave them after 8.40am when a member of staff will be on duty.

#### **Wren Class on Main Playground**

A parent had queried why Wren Class have been allowed to play on the main playground at this point in the school year (earlier than in previous years). Mrs Turvey explained that it is to bring Wyke in line with other local schools. A parent noted that the younger children enjoy playing with the older children and vice versa. Mrs Turvey reassured parents that the younger children learn quickly and clarified the different areas of the playground and their purposes and explained the rules regarding ball games.

#### **Swimming Lessons**

A parent had asked for her concern to be raised; she feels that Reception Class children are too young to have swimming lessons. Mrs Turvey advised that this issue has been discussed in depth with staff and that the current arrangement will continue as it has had overwhelming support over the years (many parents have said that it has made their child want to swim).

### **ParentMail**

Feedback was very positive. There have been a few teething problems, but in general parents are very happy with the new arrangement. Miss Hinton advised that parents' evening appointments will soon be available to book through ParentMail.

### **Website**

All agreed that the website's front page needs refreshing. Mrs Turvey advised that Miss Palmer will evaluate this once she is in post.

### **Friends Association**

A parent asked how to join the committee: parents present advised that simply approaching a committee member at a Friends' event, or leave your name at the School Office was best. It was agreed that a 2.30pm meeting was easier for parents to attend than an evening meeting. Miss Hinton advised that more parents have now joined the committee. Mrs Turvey stated that there is always enough help on the day of big events (eg Bazaar, Fete) but more help is needed from committee members behind the scenes in the lead-up to these events as an enormous amount of work is needed to organise them. It was suggested to send a reminder to parents via ParentMail prior to each meeting to attract new members.

### **Topics for discussion at next meeting**

None were set.

Meeting ended 3.20pm.

**Date of next meeting: Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2016, 2.30pm (please note revised time)**

### *Parents' Forum Contacts:*

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