

Parents' Forum Meeting

Tuesday 21st February 2017, 2.30pm

Present: Miss Palmer, Jules Bond, Angela Burgess-Hughes, Trudy Hinton, Helen Covell, Karen Penny, Rebecca Thomlinson

Apologies: Leona Bowers, Tracey Phenix, Sam Stone, Amy Woodhouse

Open meeting – no agenda set

Outdoor Classroom

Exciting news – a Big Lottery grant of £10,000 has been awarded to the school to build an outdoor learning area. This will be a memorial gazebo for Mrs Hopkins and Robert Baker, a pupil who sadly passed away, and building is hoped to begin soon.

Vision, Aims and Values

Miss Palmer distributed the new Mission, Aims and Values statement to those present for their comments. She explained that it had been written collaboratively with all staff, and will replace the previous version which has been in place for many years. It will shortly be sent out to parents for their input, and will be taken to governors for their contributions and approval next week. A parent said that they like the new 'core values'. Miss Palmer explained the thinking behind them, in that they form a moral framework for the children. A parent noted that assemblies have sometimes been repeated on the same core value; Miss Palmer advised that she had been made aware of this and it has now been addressed. All present agreed the Mission, Aims and Values statement.

Clubs

Miss Palmer ran through the recent clubs questionnaire responses received from parents, of which there were 162. There were many, many varied responses in terms of clubs parents would like to see available, including arts and crafts, sports, computing, nature, dance and singing. Although the majority would prefer clubs to be free, 96 were happy to pay £3 and less, with 68 willing to pay between £3 and £6. Miss Palmer reiterated that space is an ongoing issue, which therefore limits the types of clubs that are possible (for example, if it is raining then outside clubs use the hall). Before school clubs (using external providers) are being investigated. The Parents' Forum could investigate a group of parents to run a club, and come to us with a plan; between us we can make it work. Clubs run by parents on a rota basis could work. The school does want to provide varied clubs, but equally, commitment from children and families is required. A parent suggested a disclaimer to state that if a child does not attend for two weeks in a row without a good reason (e.g. illness) then they will lose their place.

A parent mentioned the difficulties of late cancellation of clubs – Miss Hinton explained that clubs are only cancelled late in an emergency. A parent stated that parents should have a contingency plan, although this is not always possible.

A parent asked if children are reminded to go to lunchtime clubs; Miss Palmer stated that they are, and will reiterate this to class teachers.

Miscellaneous

Behavioural Policy – a parent asked if the Behavioural Policy has been reviewed. Miss Palmer advised that it is one of the Senior Leadership Team's actions. It will be worked upon by the SLT, taken to teaching staff then to the whole staff, parents and governors.

Peer Massage – a parent said that when this initiative started, it was a big talking point in the playground. However, the opportunity to come in to school and see it in action has put many parents' minds at rest and there has now been considerable positive feedback from parents. A parent noted that the option for a child to choose not to take part was not clearly communicated. Some parents were initially worried that peer massage was sending the wrong message to children about being touched. Miss Palmer stated that it is in fact the opposite as it is teaching the children it is not ok to be touched by just anybody, they must give permission. It is safeguarding our children at grass roots level, as they are learning to safeguard themselves. They are the ones with the power and can make the decision; they are empowered to say no. There is no pressure to take part; children can choose to sit quietly instead.

Confusion over Booked by Dorset – some parents have stated that they were unsure of time changes, and if this affected other year groups. Miss Palmer stated that parents do need to trust us; if something affects them we will let them know. If they are unsure, come in and ask.

New Assembly Timetable – this will be communicated to parents for their information.

Sickness Bugs – a parent asked how often are the toilets are cleaned, particularly in Wren Class, when a sickness bug is rife. Miss Palmer stated that she was unsure as she was not in post when the last particularly rampant bug was at Wyke before Christmas, however, it is good practice to clean toilets, toilet seats and handles during the day. Hand gel could also be used if necessary. Miss Palmer reiterated the importance of the '48 hour rule'. *(Mrs Amery has since confirmed that toilets and taps/door handles, etc. are disinfected several times a day by staff and that this has been in place for several years).*

Confidentiality – a parent asked about the ethics of having a class associated to them through the Parents' Forum on the school website as this identifies that their child is in a particular class. Miss Palmer stated that this choice is up to individual parents. The website is planned to be revamped at some point and a 'parents only' section could be added.

Collection for Mrs Turvey – Miss Palmer stated that parents will be invited to either give a contribution or a gift for Mrs Turvey's baby once he or she has been born.

Class Representatives – Miss Palmer would like to raise the profile of the class reps, to ensure that parents in each class know who to approach if they wish to forward an item for discussion to a Parents' Forum meeting.

Topics for discussion at next meeting

None identified.

Meeting ended 3.15pm.

**Date of next meeting: Wednesday 24th May 2017, 2.45pm
(please note revised day and time)**

Parents' Forum Contacts:

Governor link	Helen Covell
Wren Class	Karen Penny
Robin Class	Vacancy
Owl Class	Sam Stone
Kingfisher Class	Rebecca Thomlinson
Woodpecker Class	Tracey Phenix Jules Bond
Falcon Class	Amy Woodhouse Leona Bowers
Heron Class	Angela Burgess-Hughes Trudy Hinton