



## **Parent forum minutes Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015**

### **Present:**

Leanne Bridgwood (Headteacher), Laura Beech, Emma Johnson, Jane Harris, Julie Keates, Jo Marson, David Mermod, Liz Moreton, Freya Sangha.

### **Apologies:**

Viki Bates, Simon Cartlidge, Melanie Pritchard, Shirley Stewart-Cooney.

### **1. Review of previous minutes.**

Clip on ties are still outstanding. LB is following up with Crested.

SC has contacted Kelly Mculloch at Cannock fire station. She is currently in the process of organizing dates for fire crews to visit school and distribute literature about safe parking to parents. KC will contact SC with possible dates after half term.

Mrs. Cooper is still unwell, Mr. Cartwright has been secured until the end of term.

Year 4 parents expressed sadness at Mr. Postles departure and wished him all the best for the future.

Heating throughout the school has been checked, all classrooms fall within the government guidelines. The temperature can be altered with the thermostat in each of the classrooms, should the teacher feel this is necessary. Teachers have also been asked to be more vigilant in checking pupils are wearing jumpers at home time, when the weather outside is cooler.

LB has been looking at ways in which feedback about pupil progress and achievement can be improved. She is currently looking at an electronic system and will feedback to the parent forum when more information is available.

There has been some concern over the cost of recent trips, with some parents feeling that they are too expensive. Other parents have also commented that they are subsidising those pupils whose parents do not pay. LB reassured parents this is not so. Costings for the trips have to be calculated per head. Those who do not pay are subsidised with school funds. If enough parents do not pay, trips will need to be cancelled

E-safety will be revisited in autumn term. LB will send out details of who will benefit from attending.

## **2. Parent forum feedback to the school community.**

LB asked the forum to consider how we could improve feedback from the forum to the parents. PF members reported that they feedback to parents on the playground, they feel that the word of mouth approach is working. Also PF members are texting messages to those parents that have posed the questions.

LB asked forum members to feedback to parents the route for addressing parents' concerns about pupils. First parents should arrange to speak to the class teacher. If the issue cannot be solved then to seek advice from the phase leader, then Deputy head teacher. LB will be informed for more serious issues that cannot be solved at this level. Most problems can be solved quickly and easily with the pupil's teacher.

## **3. Sports – home.**

Parents have queried if pupils should be wearing gum shields for Hockey. Parents have reported one broken tooth already and another child has been hit with the hockey stick. Parents asked if this should be made policy. LB considered this, but if this became policy, all pupils would need to wear them. This would leave pupils unable to play if they did not have a gum shield or had forgotten it on the day. LB felt this should be parent choice as the equipment used doesn't warrant the use of gum shields. DT to check requirements before all parents are informed.

## **4. Newsletters/letter distribution to absent pupils**

Absent pupils are not always receiving the newsletters/ letters that have been distributed in their absence. LB will remind all teachers to set aside newsletters/letters for absent pupils. Parents to inform forum if this continues.

### **5. Parents evening arrangements**

There have been many changes to assessment following the introduction of the new curriculum. Standards have changed and a child that was previously at an above expected level will now be at expected. LB informed parents that the new curriculum is considerably more difficult. A letter with all the details will be sent to parent's week commencing 18<sup>th</sup> May.

### **6. Playground behaviour – smoking/dogs/lone children.**

Concerns have been raised about the safety of pupils that are coming into school unaccompanied. Some parents/carers are not accompanying the children onto the playground and waiting at the far end of the gate. Parents/carers must accompany pupils into school.

Some parents have also expressed concern over parents smoking at the gate. A polite request for parents not to smoke outside the school gate will be issued in the newsletter.

Parents have also raised an issue about dogs being left outside the school gate. Not all children are confident around dogs. A request for dog owners to be considerate of others and where possible ask a friend to hold the dog whilst taking pupils into school to go on the newsletter.

### **7. AOB**

#### **Photos**

Still awaiting photos for the parent forum information leaflet from Emma, Lyndsey, Liz and Simon. If not received by the next forum, leaflets will be distributed without photos.

#### **Birches Valley trip.**

Some parents were unhappy with the drinks confusion during the trip to Birches valley. Pupils were not requested to take drinks as milk was to be given at snack

time. Unfortunately there was not enough to go round. LB ensured parents that this would not happen again.

### **Police cadets**

Forum members have received really positive feedback for this venture. Pupils enjoyed the 6 week project more than they had expected and were proud to have been a part of the project.

### **Nursery sing along**

Parents felt this was a lovely experience and parents wanted to thank the cooks for the wonderful biscuits.

### **Egg completion**

Thanks to the PTFA for organising the egg completion, the children entered some excellent creations.

### **Raining.**

Parents have asked when raining if pupils can be let in earlier.

**Next meeting: Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2015 at 6.00 p.m.**