



## **Parent forum minutes February 2015**

### **Present:**

Leanne Bridgwood (Headteacher), Viki Bates, Laura Beech, Lyndsey Booth, Simon Cartlidge, Jane Harris, Jo Marson, David Mermod, Liz Moreton, Melanie Pritchard, Freya Sangh

### **Apologies:**

Emma Johnson, Julie Keates, Shirley Stewart-Cooney, Nikki Turner.

### **1. Welcome and apologies.**

Members were welcomed to the meeting and apologies received.

LB gave members copies of the draft for the parent forum information leaflet. Members were asked to check that all details were correct and also to send in a photo if one hadn't been taken.

### **2. Review of the previous minutes.**

#### **Uniform**

Crested have notified school that they could provide higher quality jumpers/cardigans. However, they would be more expensive. The cost of a jumper would increase by £1 and cardigans £3.50. LB and NT are concerned that this would be a costly increase families. Therefore there will be no change to the uniform at present. If parents wish to purchase higher quality jumpers, they will be available on request at the increased price from September 2015...

LB informed parents that plain cardigans and jumpers could be worn in school, as long as school jumpers/ cardigans are worn for events/trips/photos and special occasions

#### **EYFS plays.**

Feedback for holding plays in the evening has been mixed. Therefore plays for EYFS will remain within school hours.

#### **PTFA coffee morning**

Thanks to the PTFA and parents who attended the coffee morning. This was considered to be a successful event.

#### **Parent forum news**

Lorna Smart has retired from the parent forum. LB, NT and members of the forum would like to thank Lorna for her time and contribution to the forum.

### **3. Parking**

Parking is still an issue and is of real concern, for both the children and the residents around the school. Parking is available on the Whitehorse pub. Again this will be reminded to parents on the newsletter. PF suggested that this is a strapline on the newsletter to serve as a constant reminder, other discussions took place including. Speaking to the neighbourhood watch to see if there is anything to be done. Children to send letters home to parents to consider their safety. Children to make posters to go around the school, educate the children on safe ways to park. Contacting the local council.

In relation to this children of a young age are not being chaperoned into school. Parents must be reminded that the children are not officially within the care of the school until 8.45 and are on the school premises. They are not insured until this point. SC suggested that he speaks to the risk reduction team at Cannock fire service to see if they could help by possibly supplying a fire engine that could advertise the importance of parking and the risks that parents are taking by parking inconsiderately.

### **4. Staffing**

LB wished to communicate thanks to parents for their understanding of the situation in ears 2 and 4. They have now secured consistent supply in these years. Parents wished both a speedy recovery.

### **5. Reception Milk**

Some concerns have been raised over some children not receiving the milk that they had paid for. Staff have confirmed that all pupils are getting the milk that they have paid for. It is possible that the pupil had got confused with dinner time. Milk is no longer available at dinner times. This is in response to a government legislation implemented to prevent calcium intolerance.

### **6. Adverse weather conditions.**

Parents have raised concerns over icy paths and parts of the playground being icy during bad weather. Parents have asked if areas that are restricted could be coned off. LB informed parents that legally the school is only recommended to grit access paths into the school. As the playground is sloppy parents asked if it would be possible to have a waiting area gritted for parents to stand in during such conditions.

### **7. Parent lunch feedback.**

Parents wished to thank the dinner time staff for the wonderful parent lunches. One comment was that it had been the best yet.

### **8. Heating**

Some parents have reported that some pupils are finding it too hot in school. They are then leaving school without jumpers, which some parents are concerned about with the changes in the temperature. The temperature within school is kept within

the government guidelines of 16- 24 degrees. Possibility that teachers could remind pupils to put jumpers on before home time.

## **9. A.O.B**

### **Stranger Danger**

Following on from a recent abduction attempt at another school, parents have asked if it would be possible to through stranger danger with the pupils. LB felt that this would also link with road safety awareness and will ask the teachers to cover in the weekly assemblies.

### **Pupil feedback for nursery.**

Some of the nursery parents have commented that it would be nice to receive a bit more feedback on pupil progress, They felt that it would be adequate to have a few lines in the learning journey to confirm what they are doing well on and maybe what needs to be worked on to improve, each half term. LB felt this would be a good idea and would consider for all year groups with comments for KS2 being made in the homework books. LB also reminded parents that they can make appointments the class teacher at any time if they wish to discuss children's progress.

### **Trip payment**

Following on from the year 3 and 4 trip, parents have felt that the cost of the trip was quite expensive, especially if they have more than 1 child. Asked if it would be possible to offer a discount for the second child. Unfortunately this is not possible as the costings are calculated per child. LB commented that the costs of the trips are voluntary contributions, but if they do not receive sufficient funds from parents then trips would not be able to go ahead.

### **Year 6, changing for PE**

Parents have asked if boys and girls in year 6 should be changing separately. LB confirmed that this doesn't need to be the case, but they are allowed to change separately if they choose to. If there becomes a large group that wishes to change separately then the ICT suite is available.

### **Year 6 Prom**

Year 6 parents are considering arranging a prom for the pupil when they leave Glenthorne. They asked if it would be possible to distribute the invitations within school. Invitations couldn't be sent out from the school, as this is an event organized separately to the school setting. However, LB commented that a pupil could bring invitations to school and hand them out as they would for a party.

### **Year 5 and 6 Shugborough**

The cost of the trip at £13 plus costumes is considered a lot of money to pay and parents are concerned that not all parents can afford this. Cost mounts up and then there are other events that are coming up in the future such as world book day and red nose day. Parents are positive about the impact such extra activities are having on the pupils. LB confirmed that the school is conscious of the costs to the parents and have taken this into account when planning future events. Red nose day will be just to wear anything red. World book day is to be a whole school initiative that will

require no dressing up. School tries to balance the trips and notice for events has improved considerably to help parents to plan for events. Payment schemes can be available.

Again trips and events in school are a voluntary payment however cannot go ahead without sufficient funding.

On the same note LB informed parents that the outdoor activities would be more expensive going forward as the government funding has been withdrawn for such events (this used to be 50/50) this will be reflected in the cost of next year's year 5 trip. LB is looking at a pilot project where outdoor activities are brought into school.

### **PE days**

Parents have asked if teachers can check that pupils have the correct uniform on when they have dressed from PE, some pupils are going home without their own PE kit on.

### **Reception Den making**

Really positive feedback has been received for the den making event, parents loved making the dens with their children. It was lovely to see the children interacting with their friends and teachers. Big thanks to Mrs. Lockett and Miss Clarke. LB commented that staff are really keen to work with parents and to enhance the pupil's educational experience

### **E-safety**

Parents expressed a disappointment in the lack of uptake for the e-safety workshop. They felt that there may have been some confusion for parents about who the event was aimed at. Parents felt that next time if more detail about the content of the event and who it would be appropriate for would improve attendance.

**Date of next meeting Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April at 6.00, at school.**