

Minutes Parents' Forum Meeting

Tuesday 1st March 2022 at 1:30pm

Attendees

Kate Barnes – Headteacher
Jayne Davies – Deputy Head and SENCO
Julie Hall – Year 4 teacher and DSL
Harriet Johnston – School Secretary
Jane Read – 3G
Beth Niven – 3C and 6W
Heather Chuter – 4H and 6M (sends apologies)
Fleur Sinclair – 4N
Kathryn James – 5B
Miriam Wheeler – 5RB
KW – 6H (sends apologies)

Before the meeting begins JD wanted to reiterate to the group the purpose of Parent Forum and the fact that matters arising to the Parent Forum need to be concerned with all children and the whole year group. Matters involving individual children are best raised directly with the class teacher or the School Office. Unfortunately the agenda items are becoming more extensive and that means we have less time for each topic.

1. Homework

Homework Grid – parents are wanting more feedback and teacher comments, and ideally hard copies of work for children to hand in. Some children, and parents, struggle with the volume of online work. It was noted that the Grid does allow for more practical options and this physical homework can be brought into school. JD reiterated that teachers do mark and look at all work on Google Classroom but children and parents do need to go back into the work to see any comments. BN said the 10 minute tasks in Year 6 are well received and feel very worthwhile.

2. Uniform

HJ will speak to Brigade to see if we could be sent some sample sizes for parents to look at. We also recommended that parents liaise with their classes to gain a better understanding of the sizes, and perhaps try on Jumpers to see what size they need. We do appreciate the lead-time for uniform isn't ideal however when we enquired with Clova in Haslemere they weren't as cost effective.

5RB had raised whether black trainers would be allowed as part of the school uniform. JD said that we weren't going to amend the uniform and school shoes are much more readily available than black trainers and can be a better range of prices. Obviously if a child has a specific medical need then this should be discussed with the School Office.

3. Lessons

There was some discussion that the music lessons haven't been as interactive or engaging recently. JH explained that class teachers do from time to time sit in the music lessons and they believe the curriculum is varied. The planning for these lessons has been carefully thought out, but JD will ask Mrs Cardy to speak with the students to understand what elements of the lessons they enjoy.

Teaching Assistant in 4H – JD explained that we currently have 10 children with ECHPs and our TAs are employed to support these children. Other than in Year 3 the classes won't have a TA unless there is a child within the class with a ECHP. In 4H there is not 'need'. JH did explain that if she did have a TA it wouldn't actually make any difference as that TA would be solely working with the child with the need. Mrs Mathieson does Maths work with children and Mrs Hall is careful to keep an eye on whether children need some extra time with her.

4. Parents Evening

Face to face meetings last ten minutes and the online meetings are eight minutes. We will ideally be looking to move back to face to face meetings but want to reiterate that if you need longer than the allocated time you should speak to the School Office to arrange a follow up appointment.

5. Safety

There were issues raised about the safety of getting children to and from school with the vast amount of traffic around Lion Lane and Vicarage Lane. KB explained that there is a community initiative coming together to look at encouraging 'Walk to School Fridays' and also a potential road closure during school hours so other than residents you cannot drive or park down Lion Lane. These discussions are in the early stages but KB suggested that parents get on board with these discussions to help push for changes.

6. School trips

Some parents have asked for more school trips. It was discussed that we are running the usual trips that we would this academic year, other than Young Voices where due to closures at the O2 we are still a year behind. Unfortunately, we are reliant on funding and the cost of coaches etc have all risen.

7. PTFA vacancy

BN is stepping down as Head of the PTFA and is looking for a replacement. This could be a collaboration between a few people. Anyone interested should contact the School Office.

8. Positive feedback and thanks

Amazon wish lists have been brilliant. Parents also loved the artist and author visits last week. The book looks and drumming workshop were also fantastic.

9. Clubs and extracurricular activities

Discussion around JK and whether there was scope to bring back CM Sports who used to offer a club with us. Parents would like more sports teams and more fixtures and as we come out of Covid and the restrictions KB is sure that this will start to happen again. We do have a date for District Sports so are hopeful this will be able to go ahead this year.

There was discussion that perhaps parents could look to pledge time to the School, but rather than reading this could be to pledge an hour to for example paint a classroom or coach a football game etc.

Costumes – it was reiterated that there is no pressure to buy new costumes and we would encourage parents to swap and share costumes.

Book Fair – parents felt this was very disorganised, books weren't on the website, the prices were different and some parents have still not received their orders. The school is aware of the problems and all these issues have been raised with the Book Fair company. Next year we are hopeful parents will be able to come in and that these issues won't happen again.



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AOB

- Y6 divide with secondary schools. KB will talk to the Y6 teachers regarding this.
- KB spoke about the plans for the Jubilee Parade and how this is still very much at the preliminary stages but we shall keep parents informed on how they can help