

Parent Forum minutes and written questions

Friday May 6th 2016, 9.15am

Attendees: Jo Gilder, Lynne Rushton, Susannah Pressel, Jenny Crewe, Nienke Verkuyl, Claudia Centazzo, Amit Srivastava, Liz Stuart, Andy Thompson, Claire Hutchings, Matt Bird, Clare Bladen, Jo Carr, Sarah Briggs

Apologies: Felicity Irwin, Alice Woolnough, Natalia Rappak, Stuart Pendred

1. Cake Sale

The takings of the Friday Cake sales have dropped and it would be good to revitalise the sale. The money raised is used by the teachers to spend on additional items for their class. In previous years Tim Kiggell used to organise the cake sales, a role taken over by Matt Bird, but Matt is only setting up and providing the float. The cake sale needs to be run by the parents/pupils of the class whose cake sale it is.

The School calendar <http://westoxfordschool.co.uk/school-calendar/> gives details of which class is responsible for that week's sale.

We would like to encourage everyone to expand cake sale into a general produce sale. We do however need more people to bring produce and to sell it so please put your class produce sales dates in your diary.

There will be another communication from Matt and Clare with more detail, and to encourage sign-up, shortly.

2. School Vision

Jenny Crewe shared with us the strategic vision for the school for the next 3-5 years. The strategic vision is the work of a group of governors, drafted by Rob McNeil, aiming to articulate the values that underpin the school's development. The vision is now being shared with staff and the other governors.

Lynne Rushton has created a questionnaire to gather thoughts on the strategic vision from parents and members of the community. The strategic vision and questionnaire when shared with Parent Forum produced a very positive reaction and further useful suggestions were made. Once these have been incorporated and the Head and the governors have approved the questionnaire it will be shared with parents to collect their views.

We hope to have feedback on the survey at our next meeting.

3. Music and Live Performance

Clare Bladen was keen to share with us a number of upcoming events and ongoing initiatives that are happening within the school.

Year 6 will be putting on a play called Porridge, with supporting roles filled by year 5 and the rest of KS2 included as the choir. The hope is for the performance to be held at either the community centre or the King's Centre to allow for a stage and larger audience.

We have previously loved being part of Shakespeare in schools but this is very expensive and we have previously been the only state primary to take part, so we are now moving to in-house productions which year 6 are very excited about.

On 30th June at 6.30pm, there is a Music Concert which will give both orchestra and soloists a chance to perform. If there is anyone who has music lessons outside of school and wants to perform they should contact Emma Ferres.

The school currently has Orchestra, Recorders in year 2, Brass in year 5 and many individual and group lessons provided through the county music service. In previous years Emma Ferres has also run a singing group for reception and year 1 pupils who have been interested. This is currently not running but we would like to encourage Emma to look into doing this again in future years.

A local Guitar teacher may be willing to take on more pupils at the school and, if so, school will advertise this to parents.

The discussion moved on to encompass other external clubs. It was suggested that it might be good to have a fresher's event in September to let everyone know which clubs are available and how to join them. This could include clubs outside school, like Brownies, Cubs, Woodcraft folk, swimming etc.... Amit and Claire are going to look into this.

If anyone would like details of all clubs offered then they should contact Jo Carr in the office.

There has been some interest in setting up a year2/3 Basketball club.

Concern over access to Clubs through Pupil Premium was expressed and the meeting was assured that this was actively promoted to relevant families and that prioritization with any private providers could be discussed.

4. Library

As so much time this meeting had been set aside for the presentation of the school vision and as Mr Smith could not be with us, this point was postponed to the next meeting. The issue of the clash of the timing of clubs with library access outside school was noted.

5. AOB

The issue of communication was discussed as many parents do not seem to be aware of everything that is already available at and through school and it was noted that it is not always easy to find what you might be looking for on the website. Greater use of the communication noticeboard was proposed and further thought to be given to organisation of the website.

The next Parent Forum meeting has been set for Friday 24th June at 9.15am.

Other questions/points and answers

1. Government Policy - Academicisation

To understand what the government's policy of academicisation means for our school, please refer to the Governors' section of the school website. There is no single set of minutes that addresses this issue, more an unfolding discussion through the sequence of meetings.

2. Special Needs

For any families who feel they need help with Special Needs for their children, please make an initial appointment with Suzi Batterton through the office, and, for any additional support please see the Head.

3. Forest School and other Structured Outdoor Learning

At present, the school does not have a member of staff able to lead Forest School, but one of the Teaching Assistants is currently undertaking the training required. Any suggestions for other activities that children are keen to pursue in terms of structured outdoor learning are welcomed. This topic will also be included in the next meeting as part of the general discussion of additional provision by the school.

4. After School Gymnastics

School has offered after-school gymnastics, but there was then a drop in interest from the children. Again, if there is a revival in interest, provision can be explored. This topic will also be included in the next meeting as part of the general discussion of additional provision by the school.

5. Sports Day

There are two dates for Sports Day on the school website, one for KS1, the other for KS2m pupils. Clarification of which is which has now been made on the website.

6. Toilets

Further comments on the maintenance of standards around the toilets have been noted and will be actioned.