

Minutes parent Forum Meeting 22 January 2016

Attendees

Andy Thompson
Clare Bladen
Laura Cheesman
Stuart Pendred
Amit Srivastava
Rebecca Huxley
Jo Carr
Claire Hutchings
Natalia Rappak
Sarah Briggs
Lynne Rushton
Liz Stuart
Felicity Irwin
Claudia Centazzo

Parent Forum purpose

Once again a reminder that the parent forum should be used to tackle whole school issues that benefit from consultation. Parents should feel free to talk to staff about day to day concerns as they arise. Where issues are not for consultation but come via the school forum they will be added as question and answers at the end.

School Security

West Oxford is out of step with other schools and is not following Ofsted guidance. So another meeting will be arranged to focus on school security once we have details of the minimum Ofsted requirements. Any amendments to the current procedures need to keep in mind what we are trying to secure against and be a practical solution for staff, pupils, parents and school visitors. There is likely to be different needs for different times of the day for instance ability to lock gate and car park at the weekends. We want to keep the friendliness of the school and preserve the attitude of the children who are very good at looking out for each other.

Overcrowding in Nursery/Reception corridor

Perennial issue due to the layout of the school. There will be circumstances where people will need to bring pushchairs into the area but we ask all parents to try and keep this to a minimum. Miss Cheesman is keen for parents to be able to build relationships with the staff and settle their children according to their need so does not want to limit access. Many felt that reception children were not ready to line up in the playground with the rest of school so this suggestion was dismissed. Fire regulations mean new options are being looked into for coats and pe bags and school will keep the congestion issue in mind when thinking about these different options.

Reception staff

We were sorry to see Miss Neal leave at the end of last term but look forward to welcoming her back as a supply teacher when required. We are very happy to be able to welcome back Mrs Meeks on a job share with Mrs Grace (who is maternity cover) and look forward to having Mrs Cook back after her maternity leave. The children all seem to be very happy. A introductory meeting will be held so the new staff can meet the new parents.

Playground

Friends have purchased scooter racks for the playground, the delay in installation is due the wrong fittings having been sent but we hope to have them in place soon. Friends have also purchased a lot of playground toys that Mr Smith is bringing out at morning break and lunch time. A council tree expert has said the apple trees should stay and we can't do anything with the roots. School are working with the children to come up with solutions to ensure all the children share the playground space.

Question and Answers

Q. Can we see more teacher presence in the playground?

A. It has been noticed that teachers are more visible, if you want to see them more then make sure you talk to them or they will go back inside.

Q. Any possibility of more after school activities particularly for younger children who are not eligible for some other clubs?

A. Jo will look into other options and in particular ask about Emma singing club and recorder clubs as these were particularly missed. If anyone wants to know about school club availability please talk to Jo or give her call and she can check for you. IF people have suggestions for clubs or anything else feel free to put them in the red suggestion box in reception.

Q. What is the policy on forward rolls?

A. There have been issues with teaching children how to do forward rolls safely without risk of head and neck injuries. School will not be teaching forward rolls.

Other Business

School Communications was raised, monthly newsletters will continue. Please check parent pay for school communications <https://www.parentpay.com/click> on view communications on the left hand menu to access previous emails. If you don't have or have forgotten parent pay details please talk to Jo Carr in the office. Check school calendar <http://westoxfordschool.co.uk/school-calendar/> for dates. Apologies for oddly named attachments this seems to be a glitch with parent pay.

Flood Policy is on the advice of the local council and emergency services.