

Minutes – Parent Forum Meeting 7 October 2016

Attendees: Erin - Reception, Andy - Year 6, Claudi - Year 4, Clare Bladen, Rachel – Governor, Harriet – Reception, Sarah – Year 6, Ruth – Cook, Matt – Year 5, Amit – Year 4, Stuart - Year 2, Lynne – Year 5

Lunchtime

Concerns raised over lunchtime, with children queuing for a long time and missing out on playing, slow eaters left in canteen not in their year group, portion sizes, and some children eating quickly to return to play. Ruth does allow children to choose from the food on offer and some children choose to have less of some items but the kitchen staff all look to see they are having a balanced meal. Inevitably there is some queueing to get all the children through the canteen but this is kept to a minimum with classes called one at a time. Ruth extends an invitation to all parents who would like to experience the school food and the process to come for lunch and see how it works first hand.

E-Safety Event – 2nd November at Botley School

The e-safety talk should address many issues raised at previous parent forums so please do make every effort to attend.

Staff had similar training and found it very useful.

Details of the event were sent by Parent pay please see Jo in the office if you don't have all the details.

Computing

Concerns over how computing would be taught within the school was raised by a parent. School will be using Rising stars scheme (<https://www.risingstars-uk.com/computing>) to address the change in the curriculum.

Maths

School is no longer using Mathletics due to costs and small proportion of students as regular users. They are researching Singapore and Shanghai maths teaching methods to see if they could be useful at West Oxford. It was acknowledged that the Maths policy may need updating and is no longer on the school website. The Maths workshop that had been held a few years ago was found to be really useful by parents and it was asked if school could consider running another session in the future.

Reception drop off and pick up

After half term Reception class will be trialling a new staggered start for reception, where the children will line up in the playground at 8.45am where they will be collected by their teachers. Pick up will also be from the playground and will be a little earlier at 3.05pm to allow reception children out before the older children. It is hoped this will ease the congestion within school. Nursery children should still be taken into and picked up from the classroom. It was suggested it would be useful to have the noticeboard about what the class would be doing that day to be placed outside as parents had found this very useful.

Full details of the new scheme will be sent to reception parents before the end of this half term.

Cake Sales

Please remember we need help at the cake sales as well as produce, help particularly needed at 3.10pm just as school finishes.

School Vision

Ways for the vision to be implemented are being worked on at the moment and we expect them to be shared before the next parent forum meeting so we can give feedback.

Home School agreement

This is also under review and we will be looking for parents comments on the agreement next time.

School security

Quotes for a new gate are being collated, the new gate is seen as necessary after local authority safeguarding advice. It will be open at school drop off and pick up times but at other times an intercom system will be in place so that staff can allow entrance to the school.

Croft Farm Residential trip for years 5 & 6

There was surprise by some parents at the cost of the trip, it was mentioned that Friends are happy to pay for the coach and it is hoped this offer will be taken up and communicated to the parents. There may be a need for additional adult helper on the trip.

Communication

Frequency of newsletter was raised, however Ms Bladen does not have time to do a newsletter more frequently. Communication is done via parent pay so all parents are advised to sign up to parent pay see Jo in the office if you need help to do this.

Sweet Puddings

The issues of sweet puddings were raised, we are reminded there is always a choice of puddings which include fresh fruit and yogurt. As mentioned earlier Ruth welcomes parents who would like to experience school lunches.

Star of the day/ Colour grading of pupils

A parent had raised this as an issue but staff feel these work well with children any individual concerns should be addressed with your teachers who will be able to talk to you about how it works.