

West Oxford Community Primary School Parent Forum Meeting 5 May 2017

Attendees: Claudia (4), Lynne (5), Sarah (6), Erin (R), Richenda (2), Andy (6), Joey (Governor), Clare (Head), Matt (caretaker), Jo (office)
Apologies: Amit (1)

The next meeting is 16th June 2017.

Reps to send all items for the next meeting Agenda to Claudia who has kindly stepped up as chair. She can then co-ordinate and send out an agenda for items for discussion and to circulate any answers to questions raised which can be found at the end of the minutes.

We need a rep or reps for year 3 feel free to speak to any of the attendees about what is involved/come along to the next meeting.

Playground & Meeting on School Finance on Friday 12th May

Please encourage all parents to attend this meeting this will cover issues with the playground but also school finances.

Ben Selby from the Governors will be outlining the financial situation for the school. Friends will be talking about how much money they raise each year and how the money is spent. There will be details of what would like to be done to the playground and how much this will cost and then we can think about how the gap can be bridged. Matt has been getting quotes for re-surfacing the playground including removal of trees and building up the playground so that it can be level and a netball pitch can be put in place. Costs range but look to be around £40,000, there could be cheaper patching options for £12,500 but this would be a temporary fix. To fit a ½ moon section of soft play flooring in front of the stage area would cost £8000

Some parents are trying to find out who laid the astroturf so we can get the drain unblocked that is underneath it to stop the puddles forming.

May also want to refurbish the gazebo and pond area with new decking.

Matt is looking into how much extra it would cost to re-surface in two sections to see if we could see the benefit before all fundraising was completed. Also investigating if temporary repairs can be done to patch up the worst areas

Clare is investigating sports grants and could these count towards the netball pitch.

Thoughts from parents about other things that could be done to enhance the playground such as willow houses, hopscotch, gardening areas.

The playground would just be the first step as there are many other parts of school that need help like getting better toilet facilities which is estimated to be around £20,000 which as the school maintenance budget is only £4000 a year it will take a long time to just save the money to make these improvements.

SATS

Last year results showed that handwriting needs to be improved. School would like to get parents involved in how we can make improvements. Claudia has already passed on some suggestions from parents (do feedback any more suggestions) to be shared with teachers so they can work out what will complement the methods already being used within school.

The Poetry competition has had mixed success as school had not realised that there would be so many winning entries and have been disappointed by this scam. However despite of the setup of the competition it did get the children enthusiastic about writing maybe a future initiative could be to do similar but to publish in-house.

There are a range of different styles of writing that the children need and sometimes they need to fit into certain rules and constraints whereas at other times they can be more free form. It might be helpful if teachers could share with parents the lists of things the children need to have achieved. It was noted that some teachers have shared these at parents evenings.

AOB

Cycling Proficiency

It is hard to get enough volunteers to run the cycling course for all year 6 pupils and as half the class are taken out at a time we hope to be able to take a member of staff. School mentioned that this might be an issue on Friday but that the timetabling of cycling courses is done on availability of parents running the course so Mondays and Fridays may not be the days for future years.

Toilets

Some children have been very upset about using the school toilets and although they are cleaned everyday they can get dirty throughout the day. The cleaning contractors have been changed and school are very happy with the current cleaners. It is felt that the issue arises with difficulties in aiming, school are looking into some stickers that can be placed in the toilets to help boys to be able to hit the target. All pupils to be reminded on the importance of being respectful of their environment.

Other questions/points and answers

1 **SATs and testing generally in the young**

WOCPS teachers view testing as a mean to assess the level pupils are at and target their teaching to specific needs. SATs exams are a DfE requirement.

2 **Poetry competition**

The school was as upset as parents were when realising the competition was a scam. As a writing poetry competition, it was a success but in retrospect the school realizes it was the wrong vehicle to achieve higher in poetry writing.

3 **School Dog**

At last Parent Forum meeting on 17 March, it was decided that Governors will look into Rafa's accreditation and a new initiative to reward children who are "going the extra mile" was introduced, which is about going for a walk with Rafa to the park.

4 **Cycling training for Year 6**

The school will explore whether there is any volunteer TA to undertake training to pass on the knowledge.

5 **Cleanliness of toilets and the hall**

Cleanliness of toilets is a recognised issue. School toilets are cleaned at the end of each day. The school needs to reiterate to children the need to take better care of the toilets and to leave them in an appropriate state at the end of each use. Regarding the cleanliness of the hall: there is a big broom stored in the hall and it could become part of the Year 6 list of jobs to give the hall a wipe at the end of assemblies.

6 **Year 6 music provision**

Year 6 no longer do music after first break: there is a rota to fit Mrs Harrison's availability in.

7 **Ball games at drop off/pick up times**

Instructions will be given to children to limit ball games to the AstroTurf area.

8 **Water bottles during the Marathon Challenge**

Teachers will be reminded to ask children to take their water bottles with them for the Marathon Challenge.