

## West Oxford Community Primary School Parent Forum Meeting 24 November 2017

Present: Heidi (4), Claudia (5), Amit (2), Katei (3), Lynne (6), Cathy (1), Dani (r ), Louise (G), Matt (G & S), Clare (H)

Apologies: Jo Carr

### **School Vision**

We are coming to the final stages of the work on our new school vision. The vision should be applicable, to pupils, staff, governors and parents and should help to guide decisions made for the school. It is important that the vision works for all the groups within the school community as it will underpin the strategic and operational choices over how the school is run.

### **The vision - Inspiring curious minds, healthy bodies and responsible citizens**

#### **Values**

Values are the 'air that we breathe' they speak to how we deliver our vision. They should guide the behaviour of staff, governors and parents.

#### **We have high expectations**

We aim for every child to enjoy school and to achieve or exceed expected progress.

#### **We are an inclusive community**

We celebrate and respect difference and diversity.

#### **We encourage a growth mindset**

We believe that curiosity and effort are the keys to achievement.

#### **We consider the future**

We encourage healthy choice for ourselves and our planet.

There was broad agreement on the vision but some tweaks suggested to not have difference and diversity but to replace one of these kindness. Also suggested adding resilience to the growth mindset value. It was hoped that the role of the school community within the wider community could be emphasised.

It is seen that the vision will not radically change the school but will help guide its future. The next step for the vision is for it to be taken to the school council to get pupil approval.

### **Communication Flowchart**

This has been produced and has been sent to Heather Beresford for editing, the early draft is with Parent Forum members for comment and a finalised version will be circulated when ready.

### **How additional languages are taught within school.**

KS2 are all to be taught a second language and this is Italian and is being taught by Ms Licatta which the children are enjoying. We have been lucky to have some TA's with other language skills in the past and this has meant some of the younger children have previously been taught some Spanish but this not part of the curriculum.

It has been requested that if there are any language clubs (or other clubs) that take place after school that these be included on the School Website. At the moment this information is available at the school office.

### **Homework and self-marking**

This is done at the discretion of the teachers depending on the work that has been set. Peer to peer reviewing is used for the older children where appropriate. Ms Bladen agreed that all homework

should be looked at by a teacher even if some in class marking, or reviewing of homework as a class was also done.

### **School policy on sugar and puddings in school menus**

We are very lucky at West Oxford to have our own kitchen and an excellent cook that produces a wide variety of meals for the children of the school. The kitchen uses unrefined demerara sugar and always has an option of fresh fruit or yogurt for the children if required. Portion sizes are adapted for the ages of the children and the staff encourage the children to eat at least 2/3 of the protein and vegetables before moving onto pudding. The school meal is at most ¼ of the children's food within a week and so the children are also taught the importance of a balanced diet. This issue was raised in response to growing evidence of childhood obesity although it is noted that this does not seem to be a big issue within the pupils of West Oxford and the work done to promote healthy eating within the curriculum and by the lunchtime staff, having our own canteen and the encouragement of lots of exercise with initiatives like the daily mile all help.

Some discussion was had over the children giving out sweets on birthdays and we recognise that children like to share in their birthday celebrations but people should feel free to do this in a none food related way (stickers etc...) or to abstain from this practice altogether.

### **A.O.B.**

#### **Projects**

The children did themselves proud with the creativity and hard work of this year's projects. School are sorry to have not given more notice to allow parents to view them and will add it to next year's projects letter when they can be viewed but this will always be either the day they are brought in or shortly after as there is not room to store them all.

#### **Dogs & crowding at the school gates**

The school welcomes people to bring dogs into the playground on leads. We ask everyone not just those with dogs to come into the playground where there is plenty of room for everyone. Please try not to congregate on the pavement or just inside the gate as this can be a place for congestion with 200+ children and parents arriving within a few minutes of each other.

#### **School Toilets**

The toilets are cleaned every day, there is no option for them to be cleaned during the day and only limited cleaning substances are allowed within the school e.g. no bleach. The children will be reminded again of the need to care for their environment to keep the toilets clean. The school does not have the budget to increase the number of toilets in the building any provision for anything other than essential maintenance is likely to need to be raised by parental fundraising.