

Knutsford School Parent Forum Minutes
Meeting held on 29.06.18 at 9:00am

Present:

Eileen Anderson (EA) Head Teacher
Nicola Beaumont (NB): Deputy Head Teacher
Richard Hogg (RH): Chair of Governors
Laura Gonsalves (LG): Parent Governor/ Year 1 Cedar
Sarah Idris (SI): PTA Co Chair
Reena Pitney (RP): Nursery AM
Trisha Kalia (TK): Reception Beech
Emma Spackman (ES): Year 1 Poplar
Roshni Rayvadera (RR): Year 2 Plane
Kim Rana (KR): Year 3
Suchi Gulvady (SG): Year 4 Oak
Fran Eggle (FE): Year 4 Ash
Jessica Stevens (JS): Year 5 Willow

Apologies:

Jules Halligan: Year 2 Maple
Shermin Shariff: Year 3 Sycamore
Saba Malik: Year 3 Sycamore
Tammy Cooper: Year 3 Hazel

Not Present:

Lorna Dickinson: Year 3 Hazel
Ruth Dickinson: Year 6 Lime
Rochelle Stoddart: Year 5 Pine

MINUTES:

1. Apologies:

As stated above

2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising:

Parent Governor (LG) stated that going forward Parent Reps should act as a filter to the concerns raised by their respective class' parents.

Parents Reps are to:

- Encourage and help parents to first assess any issues.
- Look to resolve with other parents, school teachers and/or relevant members of staff.
- Only submit agenda items that would benefit from a discussion at forum
- Propose or suggest resolutions and provide examples of how issues can be tackled where appropriate.

If unsure of potential agenda items reps can speak to Parent Governor – LG

3. GDPR Update:

LG stated she has liaised with the Data Protection team and the data at present is compliant with current requirements. LG reminded all those present to be conscious and mindful that any information shared should be generic (without mentioning names of children and staff).

4. Lost Property

EA stated that there is once again a huge amount of un-named school uniforms piling up near the staff office making it impossible to sort through. Parent Reps are to remind parents to label ALL items of clothing.

FE offered with the help of some volunteers to go through the pile and sort them into categories and ask parents to come and claim, or they go to charity.

RR suggested the lot to be displayed on the open evening and parents to be given a final reminder before it goes to charity. EA agreed that labelled uniforms will be returned, and the remainder will only be kept until 12th July. No plans were agreed to display at the open evening.

NB said going forward all un-named the lost property will be put into bags directly to go out without keeping it waiting outside office to be claimed.

FR and RP volunteered to sort through all the current lost property.

5 and 9: Cake Sale alternatives and PTA Cake Sale money combined:

SI suggested parents are welcome to add healthy options like fruit skewers to the sales, however these items had not been as popular in the past.

SI stated that each year group are able to use the money they have specifically raised. Previous funds raised have supported expenses towards Year 6 leavers' parties, gifts, personalised hoodies etc

Going forward the Parent reps can liaise with their respective class teachers and parents for how cake sale funds raised from their class could be used to benefit the children from that year group. EA stated that any items bought using this money should be via the school so that VAT can be claimed back.

6 & 7: Parent volunteers for trips and Rewards and Recognitions:

Both to be discussed in September meeting.

8: PTA Easy Funding App:

SI requested that the Easy Funding App should be promoted and encouraged by Class Reps. The app generates money directly for the school and can be used with large stores such as Tesco and Amazon. This directly raises funds for the School/ PTA.

10. Year 6 Leavers party:

EA stated that the school do organise a free of charge end of year party on school premises which has usually consisted of a water fight and McDonalds. Parents have subsequently

organised their own 'leavers' party' and EA raised awareness that the cost has become so high that some children cannot afford other school affiliated planned trips such as The Isle of Wight. The group agreed that it is saddening to see children isolated from something which is not organised by the school however, it was noted that it has become part of what Year 6 children expect.

EA requested organisers to review costs (stated as £60 for this year). SI stated that this year the limo element was not compulsory bringing costs down. It was also raised in the group that the limos do not have seat belts.

RR suggested if the PTA could help kick start funding the annual Year 6 trips for children who fall under the affordability bracket. The school would inform the PTA how many children it would be, whilst not identifying them to all. SI stated that this may result in the abuse of the system, others agreed.

11. Long Term quantifiable goals for improving the school:

RP suggested understanding from the school website if the goals stated can be consolidated into main few and then draw simple quantifiable goals to achieve those main ones. RP stated as so few parents (11) attended the Academisation meeting, maybe simpler correspondence (rather than the entire School Improvement Plan) would be better received.

EA clarified that the school (from the request of parents) are now transparent with parents on all plans. The School improvement plan therefore states three main areas that the school will focus on and then explain a term by term plan to implement and achieve them in a very detailed manner. EA stated that there are no plans to revert to simple correspondence specifically for parents.

12. Coaches parking by school crossing:

Point was raised that school trip coaches park at the Knutsford Avenue entrance and subsequently block the crossing. EA described how action such as using cones has previously been taken and parents have subsequently moved the cones. EA stated that there is no alternative curb side space to park elsewhere. No further action to be taken.

13 Water Bottles in class

EA raised the point that students are able to drink water during the day when they are completing work. There are specific study times in the day that require the full attention of the class where students wait until the next break. EA confirmed that there are not long periods of time where students go without water. No further action to be taken.

14, 15, 16, 17: Grid homework, Maths/Literacy homework, Homework survey, Alternatives to reading record (book bingo):

EA stated that the homework policy is up for review in the Autumn term. To be discussed in September meeting.

18. Year 5 PE changing:

EA and NB have consulted with the Year 5 teachers and agreed that girls and boys will be changing separately from Year 5

EA suggested the girls could wear a vest top to avoid feeling uncomfortable, SG suggested based on parents' feedback it was highly inconvenient to be in vest tops on particularly hot days. SG agreed that this change will be welcome, making many children less anxious towards changing for PE (especially as many girls in particular are developing younger too).

ADDITIONAL ITEMS DISCUSSED:

19. Sanitary facilities in girls' toilets:

EA and NB stated there are sanitary facilities present in juniors' toilets.

20. Sports Apprentices:

EA stated based on consultation with the teachers, various sports facilitators are brought in who provide high quality training to the teachers who in turn get adept in conducting these lessons themselves in future.

21. Scary Stories

EA wishes to remind parents that children (highlighting some as young as year 3) should not have unsupervised access to the internet at home. The School website provides information regarding e-safety at home and parents are welcome to attend school e-safety meetings for further information.

22: PTA

SI has requested feedback from the Summer Fayre, what did people think about the variety of stalls? The prices? Overall? SI also explained that some rides were outsourced due to lack of help, which meant that prices were then in turn higher. It was highlighted that many stalls were from 50p.

The PTA would like to request that all Parent Reps encourage new faces to organise new ideas for the next Fayre. Many hands make light work.

Meeting Closed 10am