

Parent Forum – Thursday 3rd October 2019

Attendees:- Adam Campbell, Kerry Mercer, Sue A'Court, Caryn Evirgen, Vicki McQueen, Sarah Best, Leon Grimes

1. **Minutes from previous meeting** - everyone agreed the minutes and these will now be put on the website

2. Matters arising

- PE made a priority
- Healthy snacks at playtime – a sheet re healthy eating at The Firs will be sent out to all the children. This gives the parent a lot more choice of what healthy snack could be provided.
- Suggestion box to be put in reception area
- Lunchtime arrangements – Choices on menu not always being available. Year 3 and 4 will alternate each day.
- Children going to a club and missing lunch. Children will be issued with passes and be able to go straight into lunch.
- Siblings and friends – SAC spoke about Y1 – 4 already being on the field altogether and working very well. This will happen on the days when the field is in use.
- Open evening – parent forum – things raised and what we have done about it.
- Looking to use the information board which is situated outside the school.
- Kids' Club opening at 7.30am – AC said that we have had a look at what other provisions do – Fordfield start at 7.30am. Most of the schools in the area wrap around starts at 8.00am. AC to have a conversation with ASW re earlier opening.
- Saplings – the response from some parents has been very positive. Letter a day – will discuss with FS.
- Promotion of Forest Schools on Open Evening – MW to organise this.
- RWI should be promoted on Open Evening
- ECO school – we should promote this also

3. Promoting the Firs Action Plan

- New toilets, Y4 flooring, taking computers out
- Working on the cleaning schedule – putting more hours into it. Cobwebs eg. – tick sheet and over the course of the week these things have to be done.
- Create new library – money put aside for it but a lot of that will go on works that have to be done in preparation for the opening of it. £5,800 from a charity in Bedford. Need snug areas – we need to relaunch the Fund It campaign. PTA have already promised funds. We asked for ideas from the Parent Forum. Non-uniform days. We could send a letter out asking parents if anyone in the trade could help ie. Giving up some time to help with decoration, furniture etc.
- Working with the wider community – have an active Facebook and Twitter account. Modernise the newsletter.

- It was suggested that The Firs have another day when they could all get together and perhaps have a litter picking day. It was mentioned that the carnival day was such a success with everyone cheering for The Firs.
- A walking event where we can raise money for our library. Staff manning water stations with a charity box where members of the public can donate.
- Parents invited to assembly on merit day – surprise for the children that their family member will be there.

4. Update re arrangements for the end of the day

- Cube to cost out the proposals for this – involved widening the path from the last gate, paving an area to run down to the road and across to meet up with the path leading to the crossing. Low level mesh fencing to run from high level mesh fencing along path to stop any child from running out into the service road.

5. Re-organisation of reading scheme

- KM talked about what the school had done and that the reason behind this was that the TA time in changing books was taking them away from the children's learning. AC spoke about the time it has taken to launch this and wanted to hear how the parents felt about it. One parent said that she was very sceptical at first but was very positive since using this system. It's given us a little point of contact with the teacher too. Another parent felt that it encouraged her child to read more as he loves changing his books. Y4 parents concerned that their child feels they haven't moved on and feel bad about it. Working parents never being able to come in could be a problem. AC – if we had a system where the Year 4 children could change the books themselves – school to look into this

6. Two Tier – Three Tier

- AC reassured parents that there is nothing planned in our area to change our schools at present. Every area including ours have to create a plan of what a two tier would like

7. Future Agenda Items

- Dark green polo shirts
- Admission Criteria and Saplings
- School Council – children asking about it and keen to be part of it.
- Dark green t-shirts for reception year the same and Saplings
- More people to the Parent Forum

Date of Next meeting:- Thursday 28th November