

Parent Forum – Thursday 28th November 2019

Attendees:- Adam Campbell, Kerry Mercer, Sue A’Court, Rebecca Ellis, Claire McChristie and Leon Grimes

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

2. **Matters arising**
 - **Promoting the Firs Action Plan**
 - Newsletter change was positive but we still need to get more parents to read about what is going on in school. Twitter was mentioned.
 - Website is difficult to navigate especially if you are using a mobile phone
 - Operation library when new Saplings building is complete
 - Amazon Smile gives a percentage of what is in your basket to the school.
 - Email the new builders for donations to the school.
 - Donations from parents who have companies for promoting their business cards
 - Electronic Library signing in and out system discussed. This is something the literacy leader Mrs Brady is also interested in, but it may be cost prohibitive.
 - Art Department at Alameda is reported to be oozing talent – perhaps some of the pupils could paint something for our library.

 - **Plan for the end of the day Arrangements** – delays due to lack of money, can we find out what parents can offer to the school who have businesses

3. **School Uniform**

Green polo shirts, the same colour as the sweatshirt. Parents’ views could be obtained on survey monkey.

4. **Admissions Criteria and Saplings** – SAC reported that after her conversation with the Admissions Manager at Central Beds, adding being at Saplings as a criteria was not something that the LA would want us to do, as some children in catchment might in certain scenarios, be deprived of a place. We are pursuing this however and we will report back to the parent forum at our next meeting.

5. **Video shown to pupils to give staff release time prior to longer parent consultation.** It was felt that the timing was perhaps unfortunate, as we had just come back from a holiday then they were straight into an afternoon watching a film. Different opinions were expressed regarding this issue but there was general agreement that if the children had a quiz about the film or other related work in class, so that they are getting something out of it, it would be more appropriate and acceptable to parents.

6. Interim reports update – AC explained about the content for the Autumn Term reports. Members of the forum were pleased that changes were being proposed in response to feedback at previous meetings of the Forum.

7. Thank you to the Parent Forum

- Open Evening – It was discussed that the open evening in the autumn was extremely successful and really demonstrated the strengths of the school well. It was agreed by everyone that that having representatives of parents and the Forum on the evening was a fantastic contribution to the overall success of the occasion.
- AC Thanked Rebecca Ellis for supporting the parent tour today. She happened to be in school and joined the tour, talking to prospective parents very positively about the school, from the parent point of view. This was a very useful and informative addition to the tour which the prospective parents seemed very grateful for.

8. School closure for elections

It was discussed that the school needed to close for safety reasons on this occasion, due to the high volumes of additional traffic expected on the service road. AC explained that the school is working with Russell Lower, to talk to the LA about alternative sites in Ampt Hill that can be used for elections.

9. How to recruit more members onto The Forum

It was discussed that different meeting times could be tried and that the Forum should be promoted more to try and get more members.

10. Parent Meeting in the hall

Parent views about the recent consultation evening being in the hall were sought. There were no very strong feelings about this and it was thought that any parents who have a special requirement because of, for example a lack of hearing, should speak to a member of staff.

11. Future agenda items:- reviewing the approach to behaviour management at The Firs