

Parent Forum

Minutes of meeting: 8th November 2011

Present: Louise Stokes, Bernard Klemenz, Kelly Brennan, Tina Mula, Ioana Balanoi, Vicky Chandler. *Visitor: Governor, Malcolm Bray*

Apologies: Mavis Boateng, Mandy Madden, Joanna Heller

The Forum welcomed Malcolm Bray, Governor, to the meeting and would like to extend their sincere thanks to him for his valuable contributions and feedback to the Parent Representatives. We hope that we will be able to meet again in the future and continue to build that relationship between the school governing body and the parent forum.

Mr Bray confirmed that the 'waiting area' for families dropping off and collecting children was being looked at and in the process of being planned and that having a school bike store is also being addressed. In response to parents requests for an area to leave pushchairs (mainly for the use of Nursery parents) Mr Bray offered to follow that through with the Governors.

The Forum were very pleased to hear that the texting service for parents is now in place and that the minutes for the Parent Forum meetings are now available on the school website.

Miss Brennan raised the issue that the back playground entrance to the school is often muddy and slippery and the problem seems to be extending down the pathway. Please could the Governors look into addressing this issue. As the entrance has steps onto the playground, families safety on entering and leaving school on that slippery surface has raised some concern.

Miss Chandler informed the Forum that some parents had raised concerns because they have been late leaving the playground to go to work because teachers have been held up by a parent wishing to discuss something and have not been able to take their pupils into the classroom. As with most families, parents like to see their child actually be taken into the classroom and know they are safe, before they leave the school premises.

Mr Klemenz suggested ways to do further fundraising, he informed Mr Bray and the reps that many schools raise funds by allowing voluntary donations to be made on top of fees, for such things as school trips or the Christmas production DVD. Mr Bray offered to look into this with the governors although he suggested that the school would benefit more from having specific fundraising goals, rather than raising money generally.

The Governors have given a date for the Forum to run a disco for the children at Christmas. This is the 20th December; there will be a disco for the younger children, (Yr R, 1, 2) from 3.30 – 4.30 p.m. and then one for the older children, (Yr 3,4,5,6) from 4.45 – 6.15 p.m. Mrs Mula has kindly offered to find an disco for the evening and details will be confirmed later.

The Governors would like to plan an Easter Fayre for 2012. Please could the governors give the Forum a date for this so that arrangements and planning can start to be made. Money raised from this Fayre will go towards the Year 6 leavers' celebration trip.

Some of the parent reps have kindly offered to organise refreshments for parents and children during parents evenings in the coming week. We hope that this will make the parents reps more recognisable and give opportunity for parents to chat about any concerns they may have or ideas that they may like addressed. As the Forum have been asked to raise funds for the Year 6 end of school trip, the reps will ask for contributions for the refreshments as part of that fundraising.

Mrs Langford asked if the Forum would be able to run the forthcoming school Book Fayre. The reps have very kindly offered their time to do this.

Mrs Stokes has contacted 'The News' who would like to come out and take photographs of our children in need fundraising efforts for inclusion in the paper. The children will be asked to wear spots and bring in 50p for the chocolate tombola. A giant Pudsey Bear will be drawn in the hall and the children's 50p's will make up the outline of the bear.

Mrs Stokes has also informed 'The News' of the date for our Christmas production and will email them details of the production nearer the time. The News indicated that they would like to include us in their newspaper coverage of school's nativities.

Miss Hobbs extended her thanks to the reps who had stayed to offer refreshments to families after school Masses. The reps agreed that although very few parents had stayed they were more than happy to continue to offer this and hoped that as time goes on, it might become more popular.

Next meeting: Tuesday 6th December 2011 at 2.30 p.m.