Parent Forum Meeting

Thursday 7th November 2019 2.00pm-3.00pm

MINUTES



Farmer Franks Lane Winkleigh Devon EX19 8JQ

Present:

Vicki Fenemore Netti Habel **Sheevaun Manning**

Cherry Roadnight

Robin Harper (Gov) Angela Jones Xeni Robinson Tanya Beardon Alison Sutherland

Caroline Crosby Hilary Bruce Suzie Marles

Liz Jones

Emma Rhodes

	ITEM	LEADER	MINUTES
ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION			
1	Apologies for absence	VF	Apologies XR, ER, SM
2	Carbon footprint – What measures are the school taking to reduce its carbon footprint? Also, I propose a school wide ban on single use plastic (NH)	VF / SM	NH – I am interested to hear what school is doing. Is there something we can all do together with regards to reducing carbon footprint and banning single use plastic? The School Council have discussed this as an agenda item, at the breakfast mornings and at school events we use recyclable items such as plates, cups and cutlery. School has organised a 'Waste Free Christmas Workshop' for children. Devon County Council has recently advertised its pledge with regards to the emergency climate change and reducing carbon footprint. However, school does need to keep costs down as well, it is a balance. NH asked if the school kitchen use foil not clingfilm? Also encourage parents to bring their own cup to events. NH suggested using crockery at events. However, the logistics of this makes the running of events difficult, ie: time in the kitchen to wash up. NH suggested asking parents to stay

behind and wash up? The kitchen staff are in the kitchen all morning preparing the school lunch and there would be an issue of storage for cups. All cups would also need to be sterilised if they stay in school, and this would create an additional task for kitchen staff. It would be easier to ask parents to bring their own cup.

SM/VF stated that school are looking into tree planting and volunteering in the community.

Pens are an issue as they are a single use plastic. Children particularly in Key stage 2 have their own whiteboards and they are used all the time. Therefore, school use lots of whiteboard pens.

Exercise books do roll over from one year to the next if they have not been fully used. The children do not start a new exercise book at the beginning of every school year.

Suppliers are getting better at providing goods without plastic packaging, it will take time.

Milk cartons contain the exact daily portion of milk for a child. However, plastic is in the packaging. Fruit and veg is delivered in plastic bags. Suppliers need to think about packaging. All ideas are welcomed to encourage recycling and reduce our carbon footprint.

School does educate children about plastic. Discussions have been had about using packaging made from natural products. The National Curriculum talks about global warming. This is discussed in assemblies, geography and PHSE. Children are very aware and bring debate to the classroom. School provides an environment for discussion.

Heating is only put on when necessary. The school boiler was replaced 3 years ago, therefore the heating equipment is up to date. Lights are turned off when the children leave the classroom. There are hand dryers in the Key stage 1 toilets, but paper towels are used in all other toilets. School is not perfect but doing the best that we can and always aiming to be better.

School does have a skip at the academic year end, we acknowledge that there are lots of items in the skip that could be re-used, if anything is of any use please take it away. We do advertise this on the newsletter at the end of the year. Glue sticks are also an issue, but we do ensure that they are used sparingly. Is there an alternative other than PVA?

		NH - Could school organise a climate action day, close for the day to support it? Could school authorise absence if children are taken out of school for the climate march? No school cannot just close for the day, by law we must have children in education. No, following government guidance we cannot authorise. Could the school take a stand and authorise? No, but we could possibly run an educational assembly on the day of the climate change protest. RH suggested that the school could possibly put something in the vision statement to recognise reducing carbon footprint. We are a forward-looking school, but we can only take small steps. We need to educate children, be non-political, teach children the facts to enable them to choose.
3	Date of next meeting	05/03/2020 2.00pm

Signed	Date.	