

Parent Forum Minutes – Thursday 14th July



Present: Vicki Fenemore (Chair), Sheevaun Manning, Sammy Steer-Fowler, Nikki Hawkins, Paula Bannister, Carly Cook, Susie Catling (in attendance)

	ITEM	ACTIONS
1	All present	
2	<p>Access to Children’s Work VF and SM confirmed that there are events planned next year for parents to come in to see the children’s work. These open mornings will be structured and with a focus, ie Maths, Science, Geography etc. Children are also welcome to show their parents work they are proud of/interested in on an informal basis, for example at the end of the school day or take a copy of work home.</p>	School diary of events to be published in September
3	<p>Uniform VF reconfirmed the phasing-in of new uniform and that there is no expectation on families to buy new uniform for September. Parents asked that letters about trips communicate clearly what the expectations are around clothing. It was agreed that navy fleeces are an acceptable alternative to a navy hoody for PE.</p>	SC to investigate option of branded navy fleeces
4	<p>Ball Games Football is banned on an ad hoc basis when the children are unable to play as a team and the game stops being fun for all. It is reintroduced when the children prove they can play well together. It is not banned until Christmas!</p>	
5	<p>Trip Communication The group discussed the importance of having equitable communications and social media across both Winkleigh and KN with regards to trips. VF explained that Mr Davis had been ill on the surf trip that hadn’t helped but agreed that the posts must be equally representative of both schools and confirmed that this would be met going forwards.</p>	
6	<p>Gateway for Fundraising The group asked if the Gateway could be used for fundraising. SC to follow up with CC.</p>	SC to liaise with CC
7	<p>Gardening Club Parents asked if the environment can be maximised and raised the possibility of a gardening club. VF explained that this can be problematic as areas look fantastic for a while but are then not maintained if the club stops running. The school will investigate what can be done informally, eg through Pick ‘n’ Mix Club.</p>	VF to speak to RM/MB about options during lunchtime

8	<p>Top Gate Parents requested that the top gate be locked permanently. The group agreed that it does not really have a use that justifies it being used above potential security concerns. Parents will be advised and the gate will not be used as of next term.</p>	SC to send out comms to parents and update staff
9	<p>Front Gate Buzzer Entry This was raised at the last Parent Forum but it is not financially viable. The required work would involve digging up the playground. The group agreed that the locking of the top gate would help with security concerns.</p>	
10	<p>Preschool Queries A new separate toilet block for the Preschool is not financially viable, unfortunately the funds also do not exist to have 3 members of staff in each session so that one can supervise toileting. An inner toilet seat will be purchased to be attached to one of the children's toilet seats to be more user-friendly for younger children. The sink area in the Preschool will be tidied and maximised as far as possible. SM confirmed that parents are NOT asked to bring in their own toilet seats. One current family chooses to do so.</p>	SC to liaise with CC regarding toilet seat
11	<p>Additional Activities The whole year school diary that will be published in September includes dates for 'extras' such as non-uniform days. The Friends have agreed to organise a Halloween disco. The group also agreed to reinstate the Harvest Celebration that was held annually in the past.</p>	SC to liaise with Mrs Hawkins regarding Harvest
12	<p>Parents' Evening Some parents have asked if Parents' Evening can be in person now that Covid regulations have been lifted. VF reiterated the objective of these events which is to tell you about your child's progress. In-person appointments to ask more general questions are welcome at any time. The group agreed that the school needs to make this objective clearer and to reinforce to parents that if they have concerns, an appointment can be requested at any time. SM advised that teachers have been asked if they would like to return to in-person appointments but they prefer online and VF is also aware that this format is better suited to managing teacher work-life balance. SM advised that the school also has a responsibility to be environmentally friendly and online events keep vehicles off the road.</p>	New year newsletter will reinforce objective of Parents' Evening and appointments can be requested at any time
13	<p>Mathletics A parent queried if Mathletics could be purchased by the school. VF advised that KN uses Timetables Rockstars for KS2.</p>	
14	<p>Notification of school involvement in local events Parents asked that if the children create, for example artwork for a local event, this should be communicated in the newsletter. This led to a discussion about a local artist who can run workshops with the children which the school warmly welcomed.</p>	NH to provide local artist contact details

Next meeting date 13th October, 9am