

**Thorndown Primary School
Parent Forum
MINUTES – Wednesday 25th February 2015**

Present:

Heather Wood (Chair), Louise Moreton (Secretary), Peter Smith (Governor) Rob Jagger (Governor), Frank Newton (Governor), Vicci Godbold (Head teacher), Clare Lorman-Hall, Sharon Outlaw, Rachael Mortimer, Sally Graham-Ewart, Cathy Sweet, Jo Hetherington, Georgina Pope, Russell Burgess, Nicola, Batty, Teresa Kwiatkowska, Ewa Pandera, Dean Williford, Bethan Lawrencejones, Gareth Jones

1. Introductions and welcome by Heather (the Chair). Heather clarified the purpose of the meeting. The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.
2. Reviewed class representatives. A representative for Mr Lemmon's class (Gorillas) is still needed.

Class	Parent Representative
Mrs King (Dormouse)	Russell Burgess
Mrs Hamilton (Hedgehog)	Georgina Pope
Mrs Askew (Squirrel)	Louise Moreton
Mrs Browne (Owls)	Mrs Willford
Mrs Parsons (Rabbits)	Sharon Outlaw
Miss Buckby (Otters)	Teresa Kwiatkowska
Miss Hammond (Moles)	Mrs Lee
Mrs Murphy (Badgers)	Mrs Sweet
Miss Collins (Lemurs)	Mrs Eagle
Mr Peel (Lion)	Mr Ainscow
Mrs Patrick (Pelican)	Nicola Batty
Mrs Aldridge (Antelopes)	Georgina Pope
Mrs Smith (Eagles)	Mrs Finch
Mr Sewell (Zebras)	Mrs Lorman-Hall
Mr Lemmon (Gorillas)	Vacancy
Mrs Sweeney (Hyenas)	Mrs Hetherington
Miss Marsahll (Red Pandas)	Mrs Mortimor

3. Main agenda item **“What do Thorndown parents expect from a school lunch?”**

Miss Godbold explained that the students have been consulted and took us through their list: balanced diet, check for allergies healthy, quieter/calmer, theme days, music, ice cream for a treat, bigger food, snack bar, cheaper, more choice, more milk, buffet, menu cards,

candles, crackers at Christmas, warm desserts, burgers/sandwiches, birthday gingerbread man, hot chocolate.

Parent ideas/requests:

- Jacket potato option every day
- Pasta bar every day or pasta day weekly
- Menu cards - weekly & online (jacket potato/pasta bar daily if menu cards are not possible)
- Always an option of fruit
- Always an option of hot & cold desert (e.g. fruit &/or cheese & crackers)
- Serve pudding separately
- Hidden vegetables
- Bigger variety of vegetables
- Use vegetables grown at the school
- Appropriate portion sizes for KS1 & KS2
- Regular real roast
- Theme days once a month
- Buffet
- Birthday cake or birthday gingerbread man
- Nutritionally balanced
- High standards of cooking
- High quality food/ingredients
- Better lunch time experience
- Excellent value for money
- Parents prepared to pay a little more for better quality
- Healthy snack bar
- Systems for managing and monitoring waste
- Good Catering Standards Mark
- Bigger variety of stickers – “I tried something new” etc
- Flexibility in the contract, including a break clause
- Parents invited to lunch more (e.g. class lunches) although it was acknowledged this did place pressure on parents who work
- Cook a dinner for new parents
- A launch event for parents with a sample menu.

Miss Godbold explained the process – a specification will be drawn up with the help of an expert, incorporating student and parent feedback. It will then be put out to tender. A shortlist will be chosen and a tasting team will sample the food. Interviews with potential providers will also be conducted. The new caterers will start in September 2015.

Claire Lorman-Hall, Cathy Sweet, Sharon Outlaw and Georgina Pope volunteered to be part of the “tasting team”.

Further feedback/suggestions from parents are welcome until the start of the Easter holidays. Additional information for parents about school meals is available at www.schoolfoodmatters.com.

Some issues were raised as part of the discussion that Miss Godbold will look into now: children being told cheese and crackers are not available, some dinner staff saying students had to eat food they didn't like.

4. AOB

- A request for a **walking bus** had been posted in the parent forum suggestion box. Miss Goldbold sent a letter to parents about this last year but did not receive any responses/volunteers. Miss Godbold will send out another letter. The ratios are 20 children to 2 adults. The walking bus would collect children from agreed safe locations e.g. outdoor leisure center. Children would wear high visibility gear. Adult volunteers would require a DBS check.
 - A parent asked if we could have a **lollipop person** on the Hill Rise crossing. Miss Godbold explained these posts are no longer funded because of insurance costs. The Governors requested a traffic light controlled crossing on Hill Rise but this was turned down due to the cost.
 - Parents expressed their appreciation of the Head Teacher/Deputy Head Teacher's presence at the school entrances in the morning.
 - The Chair thanked the Governors and Head Teacher for giving parents the opportunity to engage with the school through the forum.
5. **Next meeting:** Thursday May 07th at 7.30pm in one of the downstairs classrooms TBC. The main agenda item will be **Homework/Home School Diaries**. Mrs Browne will hopefully attend.

All parents are members of the parent forum and are welcome to attend the meetings. If you cannot attend but wish to raise an issue you can email parentforum@thorndown.cambs.sch.uk, post a note in the suggestion box in the lobby or raise it with your class representative.