

THORNDOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Parent Forum Minutes – Thursday 10th March 2016

Attendees:

Heather Wood (Chair), Rob Jagger (Governor), Miss Godbold (Headteacher), Mrs Murphy (Staff), Mrs Gerrard (Staff), Katie Humphrey, Lucy Howe, Beth Jessop, Tonia Obi, Christopher Obi, Cathy Sweet, Sharon Outlaw, Louise Keeley, Pawel Kurkiewicz, Clare Lorman-Hall, Amanda Mumford and Russell Burgess

1. INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME BY HEATHER WOOD

2. ELECTION OF SECRETARY

It was not possible to elect a secretary but Lucy Howe offered to take responsibility for the minutes of the March meeting. The election of a secretary is to be brought forward to the next meeting in May.

3. SEX AND RELATIONSHIP POLICY

- Mrs Murphy gave a presentation on Thorndown's Sex and Relationship Policy. The policy ensures that all content that is taught is age appropriate. A cartoon DVD is used throughout the school and only relevant clips are shown to the pupils. The DVD can be borrowed by parent's - if you wish to do this please contact either the school office or Mrs Murphy. Year 6 also have access to 2 books titled "what is happening to me?", one for boys and one for girls, again if you wish to borrow one of these please contact the office.

The full policy can be viewed on the school website under the policies tab, also attached is a handout which details what is taught to each year and the appropriate wording used in the classroom.

Miss Godbold emphasised that a letter is always sent out to parents prior to any lessons of this nature advising of how it is taught and wording that will be used.

- A concern was raised as to whether year 3 & 4 pupils should have separate changing areas for PE, currently only years 5 & 6 change separately. Miss Godbold advised that she was unsure this was necessary as she does not want to highlight any issue to the children, although if this is what parents would like she will explore the possibilities. It was agreed that the current arrangement will stand.
- Another concern was raised regarding what information was given to pupils relating to teacher pregnancies, Miss Godbold advised that all sex and relationship teaching

must not relate to individual issues, it is not about ourselves, we do not ask “have you or do you”, therefore this is not relevant or any different from any family member or friend being pregnant

- All the current teaching follows the PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Emotional) curriculum, if you have any concerns or worries regarding this please speak directly to your child’s teacher.

4. RESIDENTIAL TRIPS

- The Year 2 residential trip to Stibbington will be cancelled for 2017 due to lack of interest, various e-mails were sent to current Year 1 parents requesting their interest for this for next year. As only 21 parents confirmed their child would attend it has been decided that this trip is no longer viable.

Miss Godbold is very interested to know why this particular residential trip has a lack of interest, and if it is due to the cost, or the age of the children being away from home for 2 nights/3 days. She is going to explore the possibility of a shorter trip maybe 2 days/1 night and see what difference that would make to both the interest from parents and also the cost. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

Miss Godbold is also looking at the possibility of a specific Facebook page just for parents, so they keep parents fully up-dated and informed during the residential trips as this was a concern.

If anyone has any views on what can be done to make the trip more popular, please make your suggestions known to the office or with your class representative.

- The Burwell and Hilltop Residential trips will be going ahead as normal, initially the uptake for Burwell (Year 4) was low but numbers have now increased. The Hilltop Trip (Year 6) is always very well taken up.

5. LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

- School Uniform working party. Miss Godbold is still researching new suppliers and will update as soon as new information is available.
- School/Parent Communication. The new e-mail system has been well received and parents are happy that they know what to expect and when.
- Concerns were raised regarding this year’s Book Fayre as it was very disorganised. Mrs Browne had already spoken to Miss Godbold regarding this and has apologised for this, Mrs Browne had decided to try using Usborne Books, however she was not aware books were to be ordered and delivered the following week, she completely understands that children want to walk away with a copy of their purchased book.

The orders from Usborne Books have arrived in school.

Next year the Book Fayre will go back to the original set up where books can be taken at the time of purchase. It was also suggested that it would be a good idea for Parents Evening to run at the same time as the Book Fayre as it would encourage more parents to look and also may be less busy straight from school.

We may have to look for helpers to run the book fayre during these times, but this will be addressed nearer the time.

6. AOB

- The school's website has been updated, please have a look when you can
- Concerns were raised regarding scooters in the playground, Miss Godbold will remind children during assembly that scooters are not to be ridden within the school grounds, also it was mentioned that some children were coming to school in heellies, and what was the school's policy regarding these. Currently they are not to be worn within the school but children are changing their shoes at lunch etc., the School Council are currently assessing this and will advise shortly.
- It has been requested that we have a fence around to the two trees and muddy hill in the main playground as many children head to play there. Miss Godbold is exploring options of removing this completely and possibly replacing with some play equipment. The equipment would be donated by FOTS and we would plant new trees.
- A request was made as to whether KS2 children need to bring something in for Show and Tell. Miss Godbold advised that Show and Tell was only for KS1 children.
- FOTS are hoping to run a car wash in the school playground on Saturday 21st May, it was suggested that time slots could be allocated to each house rather than year as a family could then attend together.

7. FORWARD AGENDA

- Parents Evening feedback
- Exploring enrichment as part of the new curriculum

8. NEXT MEETING

- Monday 9th May 2016 at 7.30 p.m.
- Seahorse Classroom (next to the Year 5/6 stairs)

All parents are members of the Parent Forum and are very welcome to attend the meetings.

If you cannot attend but wish to raise an issue you can e-mail parentforum@thorndown.cambs.sch.uk, raise it with your class representative or post a note in the suggestion box in the school foyer.