

Thorndown Primary School
Parent Forum Minutes
Wednesday November 04th 2015

Present:

Heather Wood (Chair), Louise Lawson (Secretary), Rob Jagger (Governor)
Vicci Godbold (Head teacher), Helen Cooper, Cathy Sweet, Russell Burgess,
Amanda Mumford, Louise Keeley, Tina Circuit, Georgina Pope

Apologies: Clair Goodhead, Sharon Outlaw

1. Introductions and welcome by Heather Wood.

- The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

2. Selection of Class Representatives

- Louise Keeley volunteered to be Nightingales class representative.

Class Name	Class Representative
Mrs Murphy - Badger	Mrs Mumford
Mrs Hamilton - Hedgehogs	Puwel Kurkiewicz
Mrs Askew - Squirrels	Marcia Davies
Mrs Browne - Owls	Mrs Pope
Mrs Parsons - Rabbits	Vacancy
Miss Buckby - Otters	Louise Lawson
Miss Bel - Nightingales	Louise Keeley
Miss Melander - Bats	Russell Burgess
Miss Marshall – Red Pandas	Johnny Nelmes
Mr Peel - Lions	Mrs Mumford
Mr Lemmon – Gorillas	Mrs Pope
Mrs Smith - Eagles	Cathy Sweet
Mrs Patrick - Pelicans	Clair Goodhead
Mr Sewell - Zebras	Vacancy
Mrs Dale - Tigers	Sharon Outlaw
Mr Sweeney - Hyenas	Marcia Davies
Miss Collins– Ring tailed Lemurs	Clare Lorman-Hall

- If a parent wishes to fill any of the vacancies - Mrs Parsons (Rabbits), Mr Sewell (Zebras) - please email the parent forum parentforum@thorndown.cambs.sch.uk

3. Parents Evening

- Parents generally felt the information provided during parents evening was clear and well presented. Parents liked the explanation of their

child's current progress and where they were expected to be at the end of the year. Some parents would like more specific practical tips on how their child can be supported in their learning at home. Parents like the on-line booking system.

- Ms Godbold reiterated that while encouraged, it is not compulsory for children to attend parents evening. Some children attended half of the session.
- Agreed Ms Godbold would ask teachers to give more specific practical tips to parents on how they can support their child's learning at home.

4. Uniform

- It has been decided that the school will take back responsibility of the uniform from FOTS.
- Parents said the TESCO uniform was poor quality. Parents also said they would like a new logo.
- Agreed – a uniform working party would be set up. Mrs Cooper would get a selection of uniform samples for inspection and testing. The school will run a competition for the pupils to design a new logo in time for the new uniforms.

5. FOTS Fundraising

- Secretary of FOTS – Mrs Mumford explained that the AGM was poorly attended and an EGM has been scheduled for 13th November. FOTS are seeking advice on the best way of reaching parents, getting them involved and fundraising ideas.
- Parents suggested putting a paper newsletter in book bags explaining that without parent support FOTS would be unable to continue which would mean the end of Discos, summer/Christmas fayres, BINGO etc. Parents also suggested: using Facebook more, having a regular FOTS newsletter with competitions, putting all FOTS events for the year in the LOWDOWN, more open approach to new members.
- For fundraising parents suggested: competitions for kids with an entry fee, carwash, class fundraising events, Christmas card competition, coasters, tea towels and mouse mats with photos, Santa's Grotto/photo with Father Christmas, Christmas shopping event, non uniform days, swish event, timebank/skills auction. Parents also thought it would be useful to know what we were fundraising for.

- Agreed Mrs Pope would take responsibility for spreading the 'FOTS word' on Facebook. Some of the Christmas ideas would need to wait until next year. A newsletter/leaflet would be put in book bags regarding the EGM.

6. AOB

- Signage – a parent has queried whether the school signage should be updated in keeping with the new school. Ms Godbold confirmed this would be done alongside the new logo.
 - Emails – parents find the volume of emails difficult to manage. It was agreed that emails containing general information/advertisements would be clearly identified and sent separately to emails that contained important school information that parents need.
 - Request from parents that appropriate/adequate feedback is given on homework.
 - It was clarified that the menu is on the school website.
 - Some parents were concerned that their children were only eating sandwiches/rolls at lunchtime. These parents can talk to Mrs Cooper who can encourage some different choices.
 - Processed meat – a parent queried whether the caterers would be reviewing the menu in light of recent attention on the harmful effects of processed meat. Ms Godbold and other parents involved in selecting the caterers were able to reassure that the quality of the meat is very good but this can be raised with the caterers at an upcoming review.
 - There was some positive feedback regarding revised absence letters.
7. **Next meeting:** Thursday 21st January 2016 at 7.30pm in the downstairs classroom next to year 5/6 stairs. The main agenda items will be communication and elections of Chair and Secretary.

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.