

Thorndown Primary School
Parent Forum Minutes
Monday 06 July 2015

Present:

Heather Wood (Chair), Louise Lawson (Secretary), Rob Jagger (Governor) Vicci Godbold (Head teacher), Natalie Browne, Johnny Nelmes, Georgina Pope, Jo Hetherington, Clare Lorman-Hall, Lucy Hamilton, Claire Gerrard, Hilary Patrick, Andrea Murphy, Cathy Sweet, Russell Burgess, Nicola Batty, Kirsty Williford.

Apologies: Sharon Outlaw, Rachael Mortimer

1. Introductions and welcome by Heather Wood.

- The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

- Ms Godbold sought feedback regarding the trial of the new homework model in KS1. Feedback was generally good. It was agreed that pupils could perhaps be asked to do 2 projects rather than 1 and that trial should be extended to years 3 and 4. *Agreed this would be put on the agenda for a future meeting.*

2. OFSTED

- Ms Godbold went through the report.
 - i. The inspection took place before the SATS results were available and did not take into account the school's information regarding predicted results. Therefore, the outcome was largely based on last year's results. If predicted results had been taken into account the school would have been rated good.
 - ii. At the time of the meeting SATS results for KS1 were available – there have been significant improvements placing the school in line with national averages. KS2 results were not available at the time of the meeting.
 - iii. The local authority completed a 'mini Ofsted' the week prior to the inspection and found the school to be 'good'. Despite the Ofsted inspection outcome the local authority maintain their position that the school is 'good'

- iv. The inspection report commented on the many improvements made, including math, reading and the school leadership.
 - v. Ms Godbold explained that writing takes longer to improve. Teachers explained that the school is introducing cursive writing in September and ‘talk for writing’. Both should encourage best writing in everything pupils do.
 - vi. Ms Godbold explained that the school was/is already doing more than the suggestions and recommendations made in the report.
 - vii. There has been no negative effect on staff recruitment or retention – the school has recruited some excellent teachers for next year.
- *Parents* – views expressed in the meeting were unanimously supportive of the school. Parents did not consider the Ofsted report to be a true reflection of the school or the education pupils receive. Parents were more concerned about the disappointment felt by the teachers and effect on staff morale.
 - *Agreed* –when KS2 results are known Ms Godbold will send a letter to parents setting out the results and improvements, with comparisons between 2014 and 2015.
 - There was a discussion about ‘levels’ changing from September. ‘Age related expectations’ will replace levels. This will be an agenda item in the autumn.

3. Catering Contract

- After tasting and panel interviews a local Cambridgeshire company was selected. Food quality and choice will be much improved. Pupils will have a choice of 3 mains or a jacket potato, pasta or packed lunch. Desert will be served separately and pupils can have desert and fruit. Cheese and crackers will also be available every day. Pupils will be allowed to have second helpings. The caterers will encourage fussy eaters and those who routinely pick a packed lunch to try taster pots. Ingredients are locally sourced where possible and 30% organic. There will be theme days. There is no increase in cost. The existing kitchen staff will be retrained and there will be an additional staff member. The company can also cater for external organisations wanting to use school premises for events.

4. AOB

- Parents were concerned that some school trips were not going to take place. Ms Godbold explained school trips are dependent on adequate numbers otherwise they are not economically viable. It's very important for parents to reply to letters regarding school trips in a timely manner. If possible, parents would like more detail to be included in letters regarding school trips.
- Sports Day - excellent feedback from parents about the format of this year's sports day. Parents enjoyed being able to move with children between activities. Some parents would like some traditional events included e.g. running races. Ms Godbold to discuss this with the team for next year.
- There were parent queries regarding languages and music lessons. Ms Godbold explained that all pupils would be doing French. Unfortunately there is a dearth of music teachers. If parents know of any music teachers who may be able to provide lessons please pass on details to the school.

5. **Next meeting:** Thursday 24th September at 7.30pm in the downstairs classroom next to year 5/6 stairs. The main agenda items will be 'Statutory changes in how we assess your child'.

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.