

Loudwater Combined School

Parents' Forum Meeting 10.03.20 at 7pm

Attendees:

Nicky Springle (Mum of George Y4 and Chair of Parents Forum),
Shelley Sheppard (Mum of Thomas Y6, Logan Y4 & Ellie Lou Y2, Chair of FOLS and Yr 6 Rep),
Annabel Balderson (Mum of Elizabeth Y2 and Year 2 rep)
Natalie Ross (Mum of Paige and Yr 5 rep)
Jean Howard (Childminder),
Michelle Hazell (Mum of Imogen Yr 1 and Year 1 rep),
Jacqui Subhan (Mum of Jasmine Yr 3 and Year 3 rep)
Joanna Bogacz (Mum of Oliver FS)
Dorota Malek (Mum of Magda FS and Karolina Y3)
Paul Randall (Chair of Governors),
Clare Cunnington (Head teacher),
Belinda Welland (Deputy Head teacher)
Jackie Olcot (KS1 Leader)

Apologies:

Leah Emery-Barnard (Mum of Matilda Yr1),
Paula Lee (Mum of Dylan Y4)
Vikki Marzana (Mum of Maya and JJ)
Nancy Smith (Mum of Amy Yr 3 and Freddie Yr 2)
Rachel Burch (Parent Governor)

School Updates

Mrs Cunnington reported it had been a busy term so far.

- World book day – great to see so many children (and staff) dressed up and enjoying the day. Hopefully it will inspire more reading.
- Energise rehearsals are underway in preparation for the show next week
- Class assemblies and values assemblies have seen an increase in parents attending which is great to see.
- Classes have been working with the Chiltern Rangers and more will follow. The children really enjoy these workshops.
- The morning mile is continuing three times a week, weather permitting. Will move to the field once the weather improves.
- More lunchtime clubs being offered which are proving popular.
- After school club is continuing to grow. If this continues, the aim would be to increase the hours offered.
- Events to come – Shakespeare week, History and Dance workshops and the bi-annual Art Exhibition. Visits to St Peters for Years 4 and 5.
- Coronavirus – school following government guidelines and will inform parents as and when things change.

Academy Update

Discussions are still underway, specifically around budgets. No deadline for a decision. The academy continue to support the school and provide CPD for staff.

Governor Update

Two new parent governors have recently been appointed– Julian Smith (Dad of Freddie in Y2 and Amy in Y3) and Michelle Hazell (Mum of Imogen in Y1).

Budgets have been set and approved for the next 3 years.

Several meetings have been held including board meetings, curriculum meetings and finance meetings.

All governor roles are being reviewed.

Friends of Loudwater School (FOLS) Updates

- Plenty of upcoming events including Easter Egg competition, Disco and Bubbles and Bingo.
- Defibrillator has been purchased from the Easyfundraising pot of money. Training to be organised.
- Reminder that teachers have a pot of money to spend. Discussed the easiest way for teachers to access this.

PHSE

As of September 2020, certain elements of the PHSE curriculum become statutory. The school already has a curriculum it follows and is a member of the PHSE association. An overview of the PHSE curriculum was sent out with a recent newsletter.

AOB – Feedback from class representatives/others at the meeting

Communication –

It was raised that sometimes letters are unclear or information is confused. Parents have asked for letters to include deadlines if work has to be handed in, or state clearly if work is just for fun.

Parents also reported that sometimes emails don't get answered.

It was also raised that when special circumstances occur - for example children leaving school via the front office – a follow up message via gateway would be helpful to stop the rumours and concern – especially whilst we are in the coronavirus panic. Mrs Cunningham acknowledged the concern raised.

Homework –

It was raised that little feedback is received regarding homework. The example of the Red Kite housing project was used – children have wondered if any pictures have been sent and what the

result was. It was discussed that children do receive feedback and house points etc. but maybe parents need to be updated. Mrs Cunnington acknowledged this and will look at including updates on the newsletter.

It was also raised that there is often confusion about what the homework is as it isn't always posted on class pages. Mrs Cunnington explained that My Maths or I am Learning is the default so parents can assume that is the weekly homework.

School Photos –

Could these be moved to the first term? Parents are more likely to buy packs and keyrings if they can be used as Xmas gifts. Mrs Cunnington to look into this idea.

People have also asked if the class photos can be modernised – use of dynamic groups. Mrs Cunnington has explored this but it would lead to increased time to take the photos and also an increase in cost.

Year 6 leavers -

Feedback from last year's parents was that very few developed their disposable camera due to cost and also due to not needing it as children used smart phones to take pictures. Would it make sense to look at using the money towards a gift the children could keep? To be explored – potentially by asking current Year 6 for ideas.

Parking / Driving up the hill/ behaviour on the hill –

This continues to be an issue. The KS1 area is an issue with children climbing up the bank, hiding behind bins and jumping in the muddy puddles. KS2 playground is an issue at the end of the day with children using the web explorer. All agree that there is little more that can be done except continue to highlight the issue in the newsletter.

Newsletter -

It was raised that the newsletter is very long. It was suggested that maybe key information could be placed on the front page. Mrs Cunnington explained how much work went into the newsletter and that she isn't happy to cut it down. Agreed that some people will read it and others won't. At least the information is available to all who want it.

Bullying –

A concern was raised about bullying and what the school policy was on this. Mrs Cunnington explained there was a policy and an anti-bullying charter. She also explained we needed to be carefully with terminology as people being unkind isn't necessarily bullying. Neither would be tolerated but it was important to understand the difference. A concern was raised that there aren't enough staff on the playground at lunchtime. Mrs Cunnington explained that there were 7 midday staff on duty. It was also highlighted that staff could only help if the issue was raised with them. Highlighted that any issues need to be raised quickly so the school can take action.

Workshops –

Feedback received on the maths workshops was that they were positively received and parents enjoyed working with their children and understanding how they were learning. General feedback was that they should be longer! And run regularly.

Children also thoroughly enjoyed the feather and fur workshops.

Coronavirus -

A parent asked if children could wear masks. Mrs Cunnington reported that the general advice is that masks are not effective and are not necessary.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.