

# Loudwater Combined School

## Parents' Forum Meeting 3.10.19 at 7pm



### Attendees:

Nicky Springle (Chair & Mum of George Yr 4),  
Jean Howard (Childminder),  
Leah Emery-Barnard (Mum of Matilda Yr 1),  
Michelle Hazell (Mum of Imogen Yr 1),  
Paul Randall (Chair of Governors),  
Clare Cunnington (Head teacher),  
Belinda Welland (Deputy Head teacher)  
Jacqui Subhan (Mum of Jasmine Yr 3)  
Randika Jayasekera (Mum of Nisali Yr 4)  
David (Dad of Caleb Yr 1 & Breagh Yr 2)

### Apologies:

Shelley Sheppard (Mum of Thomas Yr 5, Logan Yr 3 & Ellie Lou Yr 1, Chair of FOLS & Yr 6 Rep),  
Paula Lee (Mum of Dylan Yr3)  
Annabel Balderson (Mum of Elizabeth Yr 1)  
Natalie Ross (Mum of Paige and Yr 5 rep)  
Nancy Smith (Mum of Amy Yr 3 and Freddie Yr 2)

### Outstanding from previous meetings:

#### Job Descriptions for Class Reps

Still to be completed. Discussion around how to encourage more parents to attend. Suggested that we combine Parent Forum with other events eg: Phonics meetings / new parent welcome meeting / FOLS.

Also, discussion around timing. Would more people attend if the meetings were during the day? Could lack of interest be an indication that people are generally happy and therefore have no need to attend? Suggested a questionnaire be sent out to try and gauge reasons for lack of interest. Nicky to try and put something together.

#### Friends of Loudwater School (FOLS) Updates

Shelley unable to attend but no updates to pass on as first meeting has yet to be held. AGM on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2019.

#### School Updates

Mrs Cunnington reported it had been a good start to the term.

- Inset training for teachers at the beginning of term focused on:  
Priorities for the coming year, Accelerated Reader programme, changes to the timetable and curriculum, changes to be made to the PSHE curriculum ready for Sept 2020 and use of the outdoor learning environment. It was agreed that changes to the PSHE curriculum would be discussed in more detail at the spring PF meeting.
- Foundation stage children have settled well and so too have other children in their new classes
- House and vice captains elected as well as school council representatives

- Events so far this term and those planned:  
Yr 4 led our first values assembly of the term: Pride – Value for October is friendship  
Harvest assembly with donations to the One Can Trust held on 2.10.19  
3.10.19 children have worked with Chiltern Rangers and Y5 & Y6 will do so next week at Kingsmead.  
Visit from Blue Cross for Y1 focusing on looking after pets  
Y1 football tournament at Cressex Astro turf (1.10.19) – we won!  
Y2 tournament next week – there will also be tournaments for other year groups throughout the year.  
House captains will be representing school at the Remembrance service at St Peters  
All classes will visit war memorial as part of our remembrance commemorations  
Christmas Unwrapped - Workshop for Y4 & Y5  
Christmas service at St Peters  
Also in the planning stages are KS1 & KS2 Christmas plays, Christmas bazaar, lunch, jumper day and disco.

Mrs Cunnington raised that some children in the mornings are not ready to learn as they appear rather sleepy. It has been decided to introduce a **'Morning mile'** – daily from Monday 7.10.19. Children can run, walk or jog and are not expected to complete a set distance.

KS1 will be on their playground. KS2 will be on their playground or the field, weather dependant.

KS 2 children will leave their bags in the playground on the paved area.

Change of footwear optional, children will wear school uniform.

It will take place from 8.45 until 8.55 so children are ready to go into class and start their learning.

Will not take place if it is raining.

- Improving playtimes – zoning playground to provide for a range of activities children can participate in to make them more active and engaged at this time. Increase in the number of lunchtime clubs staff are running with the after school care club run by U sports providing an after school club.

### **Academy Update**

Process ongoing – no further updates at this time.

### **Governor Update**

One Raising Attainment Committee Meeting has been held and some of items on the agenda included: Presentation on History & Geography, Safeguarding – Annual Safeguarding Report , RSE and Health Education, Schools Financial Values Standards, Governors Roles and Responsibilities, Teachers Workload and Well-being

Other aspects of work include Governor Recruitment, which has been really positive and has shown interest from parents in KS1.

Focus of Governors visits into school this term will include: Writing, Reading, Maths, Curriculum, Pupil Premium, Prevent and Safeguarding

The next governors' meeting will be on the 17<sup>th</sup> October 2019.

### **AOB – Feedback from class representatives/others at the meeting**

#### ***School uniform***

Suggestion received that the school could produce a self-sew badge so parents could choose suppliers for polo shirts and jumpers. Discussed but decided that this would not be practical – colours of jumpers would vary too much, position of badges would be hard to standardise. School to look at PMG as a sole supplier.

Suggestion also that jumpers could be similar to Cub jumpers without elasticated bottoms and sold by chest size. School to investigate options.

#### ***Class pages***

It was raised that several of the class pages on eschools were not updated at the start of the school year. This has been addressed and Mrs Cunningham thanked the forum for raising the issue.

#### ***After School Clubs***

Several parents had raised issues with clubs. Lack of choice, short notice of cancellation, merging of key stages into one club. Discussion around why so little uptake with clubs but all agreed it's a chicken and egg situation – uptake is poor so clubs cannot run – but lack of choice limits uptake. Class Reps to try and canvas opinion regarding after school clubs.

The wrap around care club will impact the offering as it uses the hall – so winter months will be difficult.

Feedback that parents were happy with the new wrap around care. However, it is only on a trial basis at the moment. If uptake is low, it cannot continue to run.

#### ***Lunch Policy***

Some confusion over the policy in terms of small chocolate bars versus chocolate biscuits and how issue with lunches should be handled. School explained that they discouraged chocolate bars as it was too easy for it to then slip to bigger bars eg Mars or sweets. Issues should be flagged via class teacher to the parents. This will be reiterated to lunchtime staff.

#### ***Parking / driving up the hill***

This continues to be an issue. All agree that there is little more that can be done except continue to highlight the issue in the newsletter.

#### ***Scooters / Dogs***

Still an issue with both Key Stage pick-ups. Will be mentioned again in the newsletter.

#### ***Spanish***

All agreed that the children are loving the change to the curriculum and enjoying learning Spanish.

The meeting closed at 8.00pm. Date of Spring Term meeting TBC