

Loudwater Combined School  
Parents' Forum Meeting 04.11.21 at 7pm  
Zoom

**Attendees:**

Nicky Springle (Mum of George Y6, Yr.6 Rep and Chair of Parents Forum),  
Shelley Sheppard (Mum of Logan Y6 & Ellie Lou Y4, Chair of FOLS ),  
Paul Randall (Chair of Governors)  
Clare Cunnington (Head teacher)  
Sammi Snook (Mum of Pippa Y2 and Y2 rep)  
Jess Andrews (Mum of Darcy and Tegan and Y5 rep)  
Leanne Vaux (Mum of Shayley Yr 5)  
Madeline Bevan (Mum of Caleb Y3 & Breagh Y4)

**Apologies:**

Michelle Hazell (Mum of Imogen Yr. 3 and Year 3 rep),  
Annabel Balderson (Mum of Elizabeth Y4 and Year 4 rep)

**School Updates**

Last academic year ended with Year 6 having to isolate, twice, meaning the end of year assembly and play were missed but they did manage to come back in for a morning at the start of the holidays to sign shirts and have the water fight.

School is mostly back to normal – bubbles have gone although full school assemblies are still not happening – partly due to the increasing covid case numbers and the desire to keep everyone safe. Clubs however are back and new clubs have been introduced – including 2 new morning clubs. Spanish is back and swimming was able to happen until the end of September.

School has a partnership with Wycombe Abbey school and students are coming in once a week to support.

House captains have been appointed and will be representing the school at remembrance Sunday. Visits and visitors are taking place – Chiltern Rangers, the Police and The Hearing dogs have all been in school. Visits to the library and the Beaconsfield school have been completed. Other trips are planned including Bekonscot, Oxford Castle, Hazard Alley and Ashmolean.

Gemma Northeast has been appointed as the new parent support advisor working Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Staff have completed safeguarding and prevent training. Behaviour policies have been reviewed and amended. Progress has been discussed. The school vision statement has been amended and sent out for parents to review.

## **Governor Update**

Meetings happen on a weekly basis to monitor and amend if necessary the covid rules and policies. Governors recognise the efforts staff are making to keep the children at the centre of everything and to ensure they are safe. They recognise that there has been little actual impact on the school due to covid due in part to how well it has been managed internally.

Meetings have been held to discuss curriculum and recovery, safeguarding, Risk assessments, school plan and vision. Finance meetings have been ongoing to try and plan the budget for the next 3 years. Incredibly difficult due to the ever increasing costs – especially of gas and electric – but they have managed to get a balanced budget.

Reports have been reviewed. Focus on SEN and the challenge group to ensure all needs are met. Catching the children up is important but will not be the be all and end all of strategy. Focus on wellbeing – both staff and pupils.

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

New academic year and a new focus – although still tricky to plan events due to uncertainty over rising cases and possible restrictions. Shelley highlighted the need to recruit more people as some of the current committee will be leaving the school in July.

Planned events include:

Bags 2 school, Bubbles and Bingo (numbers permitting), Virtual Xmas balloon race, Christmas trail, Christmas cards and possible scaled back bazaar.

Mrs Cunningham gave her thanks to FOLS for all their work.

## **AOB**

Parent forum needs a foundation stage and a year 1 rep.

New chair will need to be appointed as Nicky will be leaving the school in July.

Mrs Cunningham asked the group for their thoughts on Christmas and specifically productions. Whilst school is keen to have a production, the risk of rising numbers is a concern. A virtual or streamed production was discussed as was limiting numbers and offering it on zoom so numbers could be controlled but everyone could still see it. If each KS1 class rehearsed a section, it could be merged together depending on the situation at the time and what we are able to do.

Scaled back Xmas bazaar was also discussed – spreading the stalls around the school site and limiting the offering.

School vision has been updated. Feedback welcomed and discussed.

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

Limited feedback from classes but the following specifics were raised:

- ***New uniform supplier and the removal of cardigans from the uniform.***

Several comments have been received about the change. People wanted to know why this had not been discussed in parent forum and why parents weren't given any heads up on the change. If they had known the school were considering it, they might not have bought new cardigans which will be no use at the end of this academic year. Year 5 parents are concerned that they will have to buy jumpers for the first time for just one school year. Parents also wanted to know why the change was made. Also some concerns about the new supplier – varieties of colours on the PE T-shirts – including different coloured logos. Lack of communication was raised.

Mrs Cunningham replied that the change had been announced on the newsletter prior to it happening but several members agreed they hadn't seen this. She did acknowledge the comments about communication and not giving parents any option to have a say. The rationale was due to appearance – cardigans do not look as smart as the combinations of buttons done up or not varied with each child. The cardigans also seemed to lose their shape more than the jumpers. Mrs Cunningham also reminded parents that girls could wear trousers if they were concerned about jumpers and dresses.

The supplier has had some issues with stock so there may have been some differences in supply. Any concerns should be directed to the office.

- ***Homework***

Some parents have requested more homework and would like a timetable of what the class has and when.

Mrs Cunningham responded that evidence shows homework has a limited impact on progress and school do not see increasing homework as a key part of getting children ready for secondary school. She reiterated that children should be reading and practising times tables at home. It was requested that additional sheets / practice could be put on google classroom so children could practice topics undertaken in class at home if they chose. Parents expressed difficulty getting work done unless it is set by the teacher. Spellings were also asked for.

- ***Children and cars on the hill***

It was highlighted that several of the younger children seem to run ahead of parents down the hill at some speed, causing parents concern that they might simply not stop. Mrs Cunningham also reminded parents that they should not be driving up the hill to drop off and pick up for clubs – especially now it is dark.

- ***Outdoor PE***

Concern was raised over the state of the children following PE on the field this week. Mrs Cunningham explained that school wanted to utilise the outdoors as much as possible for PE as some children had struggled to stay active during the lockdown periods. Parents will be asked to send spare shoes in on outdoor PE days.

- ***Why are the children walking to the library when the school has a library?***  
Some parents had asked if this was happening due to the school library not being very good. Mrs Cunningham explained that this wasn't the case. It was designed to encourage the use of the library – it's a free community resource that should be utilised. The library also had a much wider range of books available. It also helps to build links in the community.
- ***Second hand uniform shop***  
A parent has asked if they can look into setting up a system for selling second hand uniform. Mrs Cunningham is very keen for this and has forwarded details to FOLS of a web based system. FOLS simply do not have the manpower to manage this. A proposal will be put together for how this could work.

The meeting closed at 8.05pm