

Loudwater Combined School  
Parents' Forum Meeting 23.2.21 at 7pm  
Zoom

**Attendees:**

Nicky Springle (Mum of George Y5 and Chair of Parents Forum),  
Shelley Sheppard (Mum of Logan Y5 & Ellie Lou Y3, Chair of FOLS and Yr. 6 Rep),  
Annabel Balderson (Mum of Elizabeth Y3 and Year 3 rep)  
Jean Howard (Childminder)  
Mr and Mrs Palmer (parents of Mia Y3)  
Paul Randall (Chair of Governors)  
Clare Cunnington (Head teacher)  
Belinda Welland (Deputy Head)  
Sammi Snook (Mum of Pippa Y1 and Y1 rep)  
Melissa Walsh (Mum of Lily FS and FS rep)  
Jess Andrews (Mum of Darcy and Tegan Y2 & Y4)  
Mr &/or Mrs Mehiadin (Parent(s) of Narin Y3)

**Apologies:**

Michelle Hazell (Mum of Imogen Yr. 2 and Year 2 rep),

**School Updates**

All staff are really pleased that children will be able to return to school on 8<sup>th</sup> March.  
During this second school closure, numbers of children attending school have increased with around 25% of children attending.  
Remote learning and numbers of children in school have created additional challenges and workload for the teaching staff. Lots of effort has been made to engage with all children. School however are very aware of the demands home learning poses to many parents.  
Laptops have been distributed to those in need and additional machines have been supplied by the Department for Education and St Peters Church.

Return to school on March 8<sup>th</sup> will look much like the return in September and information will be sent out to parents as soon as it is finalised.  
Timings will continue to be staggered.  
Breakfast club and afterschool club will be available – but as before, numbers will be limited so will need to be booked.  
Uniform rules will be relaxed due to the potential difficulties in getting hold of uniform. PE days will still see children coming to school in PE kit.

St Peters church have been a great support throughout, providing food hampers and laptops.

## **Governor Update**

Governors have continued to meet virtually. They have maintained a strategic focus and been keeping up to date with all the government changes. Focus has also been on safeguarding, catch up funding and pupil premium. Paul and Mrs Cunnington continue to meet on a weekly basis.

Governors will complete a health and safety walk before the return to school.

They also wanted to acknowledge the great work of all the staff. They also thanked FOLS for their continued support. In addition, they mentioned the key role of the whole community of the school in getting through this challenging time.

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

FOLS have been having a short break following the success of the balloon race and then lockdown. A meeting will now be held following the government's announcement. It seems unlikely we will be able to hold a traditional school summer fete – maybe postpone until September?

An issue was raised around some negative experiences that occurred before Christmas. To avoid further issues, it has been suggested that we create a 'parent directory' to list services / businesses that parents run / can offer to the school community. This could then be extended out to running stalls at the fete and bazaar. Paul Randall and Mrs Cunnington were sorry that these issues had occurred and recognised the great work that the FOLS committee had done throughout lockdowns to support the school and to continue to fundraise. They would support the idea of a directory if this was something FOLS wanted to take forward.

FOLS to look into Easter egg / One can swap.

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

There was very little feedback from the classes – except that parents generally have been happy with how the school have managed COVID and remote learning and appreciate all the work the staff have been doing. The following questions were raised:

- ***Is attendance mandatory?***  
Mrs Cunnington explained that yes, it is but that the school weren't in the habit of just issuing fines. If parents have any concerns around the return to school they should contact the school office and Mrs Cunnington will get back to them.
- ***Can school enforce the wearing of masks? Still some parents not wearing them.***  
Unfortunately not. All school can do is request that parents wear them. It was pointed out that some parents have legitimate reasons for not wearing them. School will however keep trying to re-enforce the message.
- ***Will after school sports clubs be running?***  
This seems unlikely, certainly not before Easter. It will be kept under review.
- ***Will there be some leniency with uniform given that retail is still not open?***  
Yes there will.
- ***Will the children be swimming this year?***  
Again, this currently seems unlikely but it will be kept under review.

It was suggested that the school utilise the parent forum to obtain feedback on any software / systems that are introduced. Some parents did not know how to obtain feedback on work. Teachers

receive notifications but parents do not. Mrs Cunningham will look into gaining some feedback on Google Classroom when things are back to normal. Parents are happy with Google Classroom and found it easy to use, and easy for the children to navigate. Live lessons were well received and story time was a particularly nice way to end the school day.

The meeting ended at 7.45pm.