



'Chat About' Parent forum

Minutes of meeting on Tues 20th June 2017

Present: Emma Jefferies (EJ), Charis Nedas, Brian Glasspool, Jacque Baxter & Louise Cuff

Item	Information	Actions
1	Welcome	
	EJ welcomed and thanked parents for attending.	
2	Update on:	
a	Communication	
	Parents considered this was OK at present and hadn't had any feedback to the contrary. EJ explained it was a standing item as it can so easily go wrong! Diane Shirley (apologies sent), had had a parent comment late notice for star worker – Thursday's leave little notice for this but parents and school felt that it's hard to make the decision much earlier in the week otherwise you don't really capture all that children do that might flag them up for star worker.	
b	Talent show	
	As the 2 nd this year had just happened and there had been areas to improve upon from the 1 st one, EJ was keen for feedback. Parents felt that this had been better because: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearer, finite rules around participation and practice • Had been encouraged in school by teachers • Younger children had been included • Sign up had taken place much more in advance • Clearer planning for the event It was felt amongst all present that one show a year would suffice going forwards into 2017-18.	Will run again in February 2017-18
c	Travel plan & getting to school safely	
	There had been almost no take up of walking bus apart from first day. Travel plan group were yet to meet but will now find out what Parish Council and County Council are doing. EJ floated idea of lollipop crossing person and approaching FOSS with regards to this. Parents present were in agreement that this could be a good use of funds.	Travel plan gp to meet EJ to speak to FOSS
d	Trips & Visits	
	We have discussed previously the idea of a lump sum each year. Parents felt that this was too much for a family of 2 or more children but liked the idea that you would know how much to allocate for trips. They suggested a termly payment with trips outlined. This seems feasible from a school perspective. Current issue is families taking unauthorised holiday meaning the cost per child is now not going to cover the cost of the trip and school's can't afford to subsidise. All present felt a lump sum may avoid this.	EJ and office to cost out lump sum payments for Sept term '17



3	Views on:	
3a	Class organisation	
	<p>EJ had been aware of some discord on the part of parents relating to mixed classes and arrangements for notifying them of their child's place for next year.</p> <p>Parents present felt that this wasn't the case – they had positive feedback particularly on having a single age Year R class. We all agreed that single age classes were something parents would prefer but many also liked the mixed age as it gave their child an opportunity to be in the provision that suited them best.</p> <p>Parents just wanted to know when the letter would come home to tell them what class their child would be in. EJ had put this in last week's newsletter and it will all be home on 4th July.</p>	School to send home letters with class choice on – on 4 th July
3b	Service children	
	<p>Although no parents present were service families, we discussed how we could make service children provision and support for families better. EJ is conscious that not every family visits the school before sending their children and may not know the area or the English school system. A parent suggested a parent point of contact so that, on admission, we link the parents up with an existing parent here who they can call on.</p> <p>EJ to meet with service families to determine further areas for support.</p>	EJ
4	Discussion on:	
AOB		
	<p>INSET days</p> <p>Parent had raised the fact that INSETs are always on a Friday. We do try to link these days in before a holiday to extend the holidays for families and hopefully give you access to cheaper travel before most school holidays start. That said, INSET days focus on staff need and training and this must take priority – all present accepted that we can't please everyone!</p> <p>School bank</p> <p>EJ apologised that this has not been running lately. With new routines and office staff it had proved tricky. We will re-establish in the new academic year and link more closely to children's maths/</p>	School office to resurrect.

EJ thanked the parents present for attending and supporting the parent forum this year. We have had good, fair debate and discussions around a number of key issues. The same process for participation will take place next year and they are welcome to join us again or, can refuse!

