

Parent Forum – Meeting Minutes
Friday 10th February, 9am

Attendees:

Fiona Adams (FKA)
Sheila Slattery (SS)
Karen Richards, Chair of Governors (KR)
Hannah Rook (HR) (Minute taking)
Sarah Pitt (SP)

And Parents

Aim:

To meet with parents to discuss any issues and look at new ways of working together for the benefit of the school community as a whole. This forms part of the Ofsted focus area, to develop parental engagement and community input. These forums will be termly and findings will be communicated to parents via the school website.

Focus Areas highlighted by parents as per survey distributed to parents prior to the forum:

Head Injuries – Head injury bracelets/new ways to communicate injuries (follow up action from the last forum)

After school Reading (follow up action from last forum)

Breakfast Club

After school club

Early access to school

Trainers

School Travel Plan

Budget

Head Injuries

Following a suggestion at the last forum to change the way we highlight head injuries, we have looked at how successful the current procedure is. We have recently introduced stickers which are stuck to the collar of the pupil's shirt so that everyone is aware of any incidents. This coincides with the "red head letter" and seems to work well. Our concern with introducing head injury bracelets, as suggested, is that it may be more appealing to children and the aim is not to encourage children to get injured! We will happily look at this again in future, should the need arise.

After School Reading

At the last forum, a parent asked if it was possible to come into school to read with their children after school as it is often difficult to fit in to the evenings. As a result, we are trialling **Tuesday Choose-day** where families can use the library to change books and sit and read in a quiet environment. This will run until half term and then depending on parent views and the number of people attending, a decision will be made as to whether this will run long-term.

Breakfast Club

Mrs Adams made parents aware that when she first came to the school, 10 years ago, there was a breakfast club running. Unfortunately this ran at a loss and the school had to subsidise the club until such time a decision was made by the Governing Body that this was no longer viable for the school.

However, we have recently had numerous requests from parents to increase our support for working parents in the form of wrap around care and are delighted to announce that some of our Teaching Assistants have very kindly offered to start a breakfast club, which will launch in the Summer Term 2017. We have a great support network of Childminders at Hordle but we appreciate that this doesn't work for all parents so we have agreed to trial this club. This will only be able to run with the support of parents using it and if not successful, we will be forced to close it as we cannot afford to run this at a loss. After an article in the newsletter, parents have signed up to express their interest and it

currently looks viable to go ahead on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Another reminder will go out in the newsletter today so we will be in a position to finalise details after February half term. Parents will be contacted to confirm days after this.

A parent asked what they would need to do if they only required the breakfast club on an ad-hoc basis. This is something we need to confirm but Mrs Adams said it would be best to contact the office who could then advise on availability. Invoices will be sent on a termly basis and ad-hoc requirements invoiced separately.

Breakfast club will include a hot breakfast for all children as well as an activity until they go into class at 8.45. The club will start at 8am.

After School Club

As above, we have received requests from parents (both current pupils and those potentially starting Reception in September 2017) for an After School club, and to this end, we have been working to set this up. We can now confirm that we will be launching an After School Club in September 2017. This will be run by an external company, New Forest Child Care (NFCC) who will manage all bookings, administration and invoicing directly with parents. Once the club has been initially set up, it will not be managed by the school in any way. To begin, the NFCC will be contacting parents (via school) to gauge the level of interest and will run for a full academic year so that the NFCC has a chance to establish in school and build up the club. Please sign up if you require after school care as this is being set up only as a result of requests from you!

Early access to school

We have recently had some queries about early access to school. To confirm, our gates open at 8.40am and unless prior authorisation is given, no pupils or parents are able to be on site before this time. A parent commented that some children do appear to be able to enter school from 8.30am. Mrs Adams confirmed that some pupils require extra support with beginning the school day and therefore a handful of children have such authorisation. This is very limited and only when absolutely necessary.

We currently have an Invitational Breakfast Club, which runs one day per week and is only available to a very small number of pupils who have additional needs. However, we are hoping the new breakfast club will be able to support the wider school community.

Opening Gates

A parent had commented that gates are not always opened on time. Mrs Adams said that we continually work hard to ensure gates are opened on time, both at the beginning and end of day and we apologise for the days where this is not possible. We only open the gates at the end of school once all children are out of the hall (on assembly days) as this is safest for our children. We will endeavour to ensure assemblies finish on time so that gates can be opened at 3.25pm and apologise for any days where children are let out late.

Rise and Shine

Although Rise and Shine is incredibly popular with the children, there is minimal involvement from parents and some children are self-conscious about dancing in front of the adults. So, as a result of a suggestion from a parent at the last Parent Forum, we would like to trial a new initiative to get parents exercising with their children. We would like to invite parents to walk/run the Daily Mile with their children on a Wednesday morning in the usual Rise and Shine slot. Parents thought this was a good idea and feel it is worth trialling so we will run this in the Summer term and ask for feedback.

Trainers

Trainers had been mentioned on the initial Survey Monkey questionnaire but no further details were given so we were unable to elaborate on this topic. No parents attending the forum had any concerns about trainers and find the Daily Mile is a great initiative which is working well for their children.

School Travel Plan

Parking continues to be an issue for the school and of significant focus for us all. We have been advised by the Local Authority to ask parents to report parking offences and to communicate with those regular offenders by adding a section to our newsletter to highlight the registration details of those vehicles reported to us. We asked the parents attending the forum for their thoughts on this. They were in support of this scheme, in the hope that it will stop serial offenders and reduce the problem. For the parents, and for the school as a whole, our number one priority is the safety of children. We will be asking parents to continue to take photos of bad parkers and to report them to the School Travel Plan team via email who will then advise us of the registration details to be reported in the newsletter.

A parent mentioned a "Kiss and Drop" scheme that was in place at their child's last school. Mrs Adams said this is a great idea but unfortunately we don't have the space available – Hordle Lane is very narrow, we have minimal parking space at the front of the school and must keep disabled access free so this wouldn't be a viable option for us.

A parent suggested staggered start times, which are in place at some schools but we don't believe this would be beneficial for those parents who have children across the year groups. Our procedure of having a 20 minute window for pupils to get into school (between 8.40 and 9am) hopefully allows for the best flow of traffic that we can provide. A parent commented that after school is not such a problem, possibly due to the number of clubs running and a parent suggested that this may reduce once Breakfast Club is established.

A parent commented that Tiptoe has added bollards to reduce poor parking in close proximity to the school gates. A governor confirmed that this would have been implemented by the council and NOT the school, and that we are not allowed to make any changes to any pathways/roads outside of school property. The governor confirmed that we are waiting for confirmation of additional double yellow lines to be extended outside the front of school.

The School Travel Plan team have numerous initiatives that will be running this year, including:

- A Park and Stride Map (to show walking routes and alternative parking further away from school)
- Working with a new Junior Road Safety Officers team (made up of pupils across all phases)
- Walk to School Week

Budget

We advised parents attending the forum that school budgets are being phenomenally squeezed. Our Capital budget is minimal and the revenue budget is sadly being cut every year.

We would like to make parents aware as this affects us all. School does everything it can to cut costs that do not affect pupils including:

- Reducing the amount of colour copying (which is incredibly expensive)
- Asking parents to come into school to help us decorate (e.g. Painting Day on 4th March)
- Asking PATCH for financial support with the upkeep of school grounds (PATCH has always raised money for the "fun" stuff for pupils however, they are now helping us raise money for things like the hall curtains, line markings on the field, hall sound system as we are struggling to get these into our budget)

There is a real challenge for school to balance the books. In the future, this may mean fewer adults in front of children in the classroom. As a school, we work hard to bring in extra money through bids and other projects (e.g. Tesco funding, and other funding streams) and we do all we can with the money we have available.

Mrs Adams asked parents if we were missing anything particular facilities that they had seen/heard about in other schools. A parent commented that normally it's the other way round – parents from other schools often say how lucky their children are to attend a school with a music room/zip wire/Olympitch etc!

A parent commented that they feel the Daily Mile Trail will be a definite benefit to the school.

Meeting ended at 10am