

Parent Forum Meeting

Thursday 7th June 2018

2.30pm-3.30pm

MINUTES



Farmer Franks Lane
Winkleigh
Devon EX19 8JQ

Present: Vicki Fenemore Sheevaun Manning Cherry Roadnight Robin Harper (Chair of Governors) Caroline Crosby (minutes)
Liz Jones Emma Rhodes Netti Habel Angela Jones Xenii Robinson Tanya Beardon Alison Sutherland

	ITEM	LEADER	MINUTES	ACTIONS
ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION				
1	Apologies for absence		SM, AS apologies	
2	School meals		<p>General discussion around meal choices particularly pasta as a side dish. VF explained that Nutritional Standards must be followed. Pasta cannot be served in a sauce as it then becomes a separate meal option. School cannot serve wedges on more days of the week, these are fried food, school cannot serve any more fried products.</p> <p>NH asked if children have to be served vegetables? Yes, we have to serve a balanced meal. The menu has to balance over the week as guided by the nutritional standards.</p> <p>There are lots of choices available 4 per day.</p> <p>It was thought an odd choice to have pasta served with pizza, suggested serving vegetables with pizza? The question was asked 'Do children mind</p>	

		<p>pasta with pizza?', no as long as they have something to eat they are happy.</p> <p>It was suggested that the menu is re sent out to parents re-iterating that there is a varied choice every day. The meals may not be as you would cook at home, however the menu has to be balanced.</p> <p>General discussion around helping your child to choose the option that they would like.</p> <p>Agreed to send out information in September regarding the menu.</p>	
3	Calendar	<p>School currently send out diary dates every term, also put weekly dates on the newsletter and some dates go onto the website calendar. Is it best for all dates to go onto website calendar??</p> <p>General discussion around this point: Some parents use diary dates to update personal calendar at home.</p> <p>It is the parent responsibility to use information given out.</p> <p>General consensus was that school website calendar is used fully by school to show diary dates along with the weekly newsletter. The newsletter should be used to communicate any changes.</p> <p>Stop producing termly diary dates letter.</p> <p>Change this from September so that all diary dates will be shown on school website calendar from September onwards.</p>	
4	School Gateway – payments and school meals	<p>Very positive feedback.</p> <p>From September all meals must be ordered online.</p> <p>Can school please check deadline dates for meals and re-iterate for all parents.</p> <p>School will set up gateway for all new parents ready for September in advance of the new children starting school.</p>	
5	Any other business	<p>Trips. The teachers get together this time of year to get ready for September and plan their next academic year. There is normally one trip per term. Some are easier than others to organise. Do we do too many, do they cost too much? Are there not enough trips? Should we leave residential to yr 6?</p> <p>VF explained that residential are purely the choice of the class teacher. Personally VF does not want to currently take school children to London due to the risk involved. When Mrs Rowcliffe originally planned the London trip she did a full risk assessment to the point where she took her family to</p>	

London and did a practice run of the trip before she took school children to London. School are now not prepared to take children in this climate to London, due to the responsibility.

The yr3 camping trip had a lot of issues with regards to children needing the toilet and staff stayed up all night to ensure that children were ok. The forum thought that parents needed to be aware of this.

AJ commented that the current yr4 parents/children had been led to believe that there would be a residential this academic year. Year 4 have been on trips however not a residential.

VF commented that yr5/6 may not go to skern next time, as a school we change things around and residential are not set in stone. The forum thought that this was fine, but needs to be communicated to parents so that they know what the expectations are.

Don't need to go miles, as for children to be away over night with their friends is good enough. School do use Taw Bottom campsite and some trips are recycled.

Yes preschool generally use Rosemoor as it is local.

What are residential for? VF / CR explained that children bond, experience different things, take control of themselves, it is a whole different experience. There are 14 children not going to Skern this time and so logistically the school will need to accommodate them whilst the rest of their class go on the residential.

The forum agreed that yes 1 trip per term was good. School must continue to consider cost and explain why the trip is relevant ie education or just for fun and explain this to parents. Send out a letter asking for ideas for trips based on topics for next year? Keep a bank of suggestions. Don't be afraid to extend the school day if a trip needs to take longer.

Can parent helpers go on trips? VF stated that no we do not generally use parent helpers. For example if there was a fire a parent would naturally help their own child, and children do enjoy going on trips without their parent. In the past parents have expected to be with their children on a trip, have discussed confidential matters relating to children outside of school, this cannot happen therefore trips are staffed by teachers and TA's.

Forum members feel like school has closed its doors with little explanation. VF explained that All staff want the best for All children. Need to keep everyone safe. Forum agreed with this, however it needs to be

communicated to parents.
 What is happening to rest of the front fence – Hawthorn hedging later on this year.
 Discussion around Parents evening and the process. VF explained that there have been parents in classrooms looking through childrens books in the past. This is not acceptable. It cannot happen. Do school need to lock classrooms now?
 Parents can always make an appointment with a teacher, do not see them at 8.55am as the teaching of the whole class starts at 9am.
 Is it possible for senior teachers to be available on the door in the morning?
 VF explained that she is always on the door in the morning unless away from school at a meeting.
 VF explained that in September the morning process will be for the children to gather on the playground a Teacher will blow the whistle for children to line up and go into school. If parents need to see Admin staff they will be able to go into the foyer at the front door after the children have been called into school. VF explained that the Teacher class meetings with parents in September will be more general, about school procedures as well as curriculum expectations.

	Date of next meeting			
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Signed

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