

**Parent Forum Meeting**  
**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023, 2.45pm**



**Minutes**

Farmer Franks Lane  
Winkleigh  
Devon EX19 8JQ

Vicki Fenemore / Sheevaun Manning / Clare Lill / Chloe Cotty / Lisa Warsop / Roger Allen / Hilary Bruce / Netti Habel / Nicky Jenner

ITEM	SUB ITEM	MINUTES
1	Apologies for absence	LW & NH send apologies
2	Parent/Teacher Interactions	<p>Discuss opportunities to strengthen parent/teacher relationships.  Discuss timing and format of Parents Evenings.</p> <p>NJ explained – Owls are new parents, it was felt that parents evening was so late in the term and that there had been no opportunity to talk to teachers prior to this. Open mornings are good but not appropriate to talk to teachers and develop a relationship.  VF – DFE guidance states that one parents evening is required per year. Winkleigh offers two; one in autumn before Oct half term and one towards the end of the spring term. Reports are only required to be produced annually, Winkleigh provide reports every term. Welcome meetings are organised for September at the start of the academic year. When organising events outside of school hours Teacher workload must be considered.  VF stated that events are also offered to bring parents into school to experience school. A very detailed newsletter is produced on a weekly basis, Facebook updates are provided and Senior Leadership Team is on the school gate in the morning to welcome children. Teachers are on the school gate at the end of school. Teachers are in their classrooms teaching from 9am. If a Teacher needs to talk to a parent, they will phone home. Also if a parent needs to meet with a Teacher about a specific issue, a meeting can be arranged. Please contact Admin Team to organise.  SM commented that Teachers are taking on more and more. Welfare checks with families, supporting speech and language etc.</p>

			<p>NJ a 10 minute conversation with teacher once a term is not enough. SM reiterated that a phone call can be arranged to discuss issues with parents. Make an appointment with the Admin Team. NJ asked that this was made clear to Reception parents.</p> <p>SM clarified that Parents evenings are about progress and attainment. If teachers are having meetings during the school day they are not in class teaching.</p> <p>CC asked if message books are used in all classes as they are useful. But this is not a conversation with a Teacher therefore an appointment may be necessary.</p>
3	Face to face parent teacher consultations	Request to revert to face to face Parents Evenings	<p>SM commented that we do understand that it used to be in the hall, all together. However, parking is difficult, difficult to stick to timings and this is stressful. Different circumstances suit different people. Single parents may find it difficult to have time to talk to teachers at home. Easier to stick to schedule if online.</p> <p>Kings Nympton Preschool had in-person Parents evening – nearly 40 minutes over run as it is difficult to stick to 10 minute schedule in person.</p> <p>CC commented on a difficulty logging in online, did not seem to work on a phone, nice to have a backup.</p> <p>SM commented that if that is the case then please phone in and have a 10 minute phone call instead.</p> <p>What is the best browser to use for Parents evening app (ask Admin Team is there any guidance)</p> <p>HB can the time be extended for some people? SM commented that this is not really manageable. If more needs to be discussed ask teacher at parents evening and another appointment can be arranged.</p> <p>RA made a point that if there is a problem surely teachers would not leave this until parents evening to discuss. VF confirmed that parents are contacted if there is an issue.</p>
4	Year 5/6 Coding Workshop	Concern over quality of coding workshop	<p>VF explained that this was an opportunity to offer 20 children a coding workshop.</p> <p>RA stated that there was a problem as boys took over the coding and girls played with Lego. If this opportunity is repeated, please make sure that all are included in all activities and children are supervised to ensure that they all access all activities available.</p> <p>VF stated that it was great that children were invited, but disappointed that the girls did not get what they expected.</p>
5	Eating lunches in the Hall		<p>HB Felt that this could be used in the process of KS2 transition to secondary school. Children at secondary school experience lunch in a busy hall and</p>

			<p>school site environment. Concern that this will overwhelm them. HB asked if children eat in classrooms because it is easier?</p> <p>VF explained that it is not easier. Lunchtime clubs operate in the hall and it was very noisy when children ate lunch together in the hall. Consequently, young children found this difficult and were rushing to eat their food and rushing out to play. Covid restrictions helped as children were in classrooms bubbles and stated that it was a nicer experience. We recognise that we are not setting them up for secondary, but we need to concentrate on the primary experience. Staff talk to children about food and it is a much nicer experience in the classroom.</p> <p>SM confirmed that secondary children are shown how to get food, where to eat etc. but secondary children often grab food and then go and talk to their peers, teachers etc.</p> <p>HB is concerned that children do not experience the busy environment of a large hall full of children and staff.</p> <p>SM confirmed that we do have assemblies and children experience large gatherings. Not sure if eating together at lunchtime is a good transition tool? Secondary transition will help children.</p> <p>VF explained that in the past we have invited secondary children in to talk to children to explain what happens in secondary school.</p>
6	Road safety (buses)		<p>VF stated that she had witnessed a Grandma and child walk behind a school bus as it reversed into the school driveway to drop off children.</p> <p>RA asked for a piece to be put onto the newsletter to ask everyone to keep away from buses if moving. Huge blind spot with buses.</p>
7	Online Safety		<p>An anonymous Online Safety Questionnaire has been carried out with the children and the results will be in the newsletter tomorrow. VF stated that it was shocking with regards to what children are accessing. Set up session for parents to help them to support their children online at home.</p> <p>Thinking about September VF asked Parent Forum if it would it be a good idea to send out guidance for WhatsApp groups? Children of primary school age are not mature enough to handle online chat and that is why there are age restrictions for these apps.</p>

			<p>CL responded that children need to be educated as to how to respond. Can video call on WhatsApp and during Covid lockdowns this was so important.</p> <p>SM explained that WhatsApp groups have been set up by parents for classes so that they can support each other. School has been made aware that this has resulted in parents obtaining contact details and contacting individual parents about matters. This may not be appropriate and parents need to be mindful about providing their contact details and joining WhatsApp groups. Children may also have access to WhatsApp groups.</p> <p>RA said that it would be helpful to help parents understand how to restrict access etc for children. SM stated that schools needs to get help to all parents and offer guidance</p> <p>VF explained that the survey results revealed that Children in year 3 have spoken to strangers online! Looked at things that frightened them online! Worried about this.</p> <p>RA asked for results to be declared then some parents will talk to their children about online safety.</p> <p>VF and SM stated that parents can declare anything on online groups. School cannot respond and set the record straight. Sometimes these issues are brought into school and members of staff have to deal with the fallout.</p> <p>VF confirmed that Online Safety is part of curriculum.</p> <p>HB asked if it covers how to chat to friends online? Children need to learn about online chatting a lot earlier if children in Year 3 are accessing the internet to chat.</p>
	Date of next meeting		

Signed .....

Date.....