

PARENT FORUM 23rd March 2015

Minute taker: Andrea Millar
Where: School Canteen
Date: 23rd March 2015 – 09:15
Staff/Governors Present: Joanna Young (JY) – Principal
Andrea Millar (AM) Vice Chair / Parent Governor
Length of Meeting: 45 Minutes

✚ JY advised of our new school strap line “Making Learning Real and Unforgettable”

✚ JY gave brief introduction and advised we are looking for a broad and balanced curriculum but also making this exciting for our children. Some children are not as academic as others so we need to make the learning interesting and fun!

✚ The Solar Eclipse Experience was fantastic and almost all the whole school were out on the playground to experience this event.

✚ We need to keep our high standards and high expectations moving forward.

✚ Parent asked – How Does Ofsted work now we are an Academy? JY advised – This works the same as before. Advised we will be doing our own “mini ofsted” by an external inspector. This will not be official but will certainly help us with the guidelines. Our last Ofsted was in 2011 and we achieved Outstanding.

✚ Parent mentioned the parking Situation and suggested had we considered having staggered start times especially with the extra 30 children. JY advised this has been looked at in the past but we feel would cause more problems as this would most likely make the delay longer and also we have a huge amount of siblings at Leighton which also makes this more challenging. Advised they are putting in a 15 car lay by.

✚ We mentioned the idea of the “Walking Bus” this really is a great idea but we are struggling with volunteers.

✚ Talked about incentivising the children to walk to school – Maybe adding this to their “Leighton Laps” target

✚ Parent mentioned the new development on Parkers Road – JY advised 100 of these will be in our catchment area.

✚ Talked about the new school across the road and our involvement to maybe enhance Leighton. Advised Senior Team & Governors at Leighton are heavily involved in discussions and will make sure we stay “in the loop”.

✚ This year we had 109 First Place Requests for Leighton Academy to fill our 60 places.

✚ Parent questioned the “Bulge Intake” JY advised this will not happen again next year. We only have room for the two extra classes. Confirmed our class sizes will not change.

✚ Talked about the new road being built which will also be a “Blue Route”. This would help traffic and would mean that Minshull New Road could have speed restrictions with speed bumps and crossings.

✚ Our Links to Bentley & Leighton Hospital is proving very exciting and we want these to continue.

✚ Taking the extra children has given us a bigger budget which has enabled us to have extra staff & Specialist Teachers. This has been great for intervention as it allows staff to have time out to focus on individual children.

✚ Parent asked “How do Children get picked for the competitions?” SB explained we have external coaches who teach Athletics & Gymnastics and they pick the most talented and able to compete for the school. We do have certain activities that all children can be involved. Year 2 will have the whole year group competing in an athletics event.

✚ Parent asked – Do we do Cricket? – Advised Yes we do

✚ Parent suggested maybe a Hockey Tournament for the Girls. SB advised we do have one Hockey tournament in place.

✚ Netball was another suggestion – We have done this in the past but we struggle with experienced volunteers.

✚ We do have to bear in mind that the good old British weather can sometimes not be kind to us and when we get bad weather we need to still be able to accommodate all clubs, which can be difficult when outside is out of bounds.

✚ Parent suggested “Mini Golf” be introduced on the new AstroTurf in the Reception Class’s play area. This will be looked at and seeing if we can action and put in place.

✚ Swimming – Parent asked to clarify Swimming Lessons. SB advised we have reduced our courses to 6 weeks but starting it from Year 2. All staff are qualified and we cater for all abilities and look to enhance the children’s skills if they are already strong swimmers. The children are split into groups depending on ability.

✚ Martial Arts Class was mentioned by a parent. SB advised we will definitely consider this for the future. Fencing was a request this year by the children again we need the space in the hall to accommodate all requests.

✚ We discussed suggestions of how to get more parents to attend as this meeting is for the parents to openly talk about ideas and suggestions for the future of their children. Maybe we call it a Coffee/Cake Morning. AM to speak at Intake Evening to new parents and advise we have these meetings.

✚ PTFA – Mentioned we are always looking for volunteers. Parent mentioned they may be able to help at Easter Fayre. We are always grateful for the extra pair of hands. We don’t expect everyone to help at everything just as and when you can.

Next Meeting - To be Confirmed