

## Parent Forum Minutes

19<sup>th</sup> June 2017

Present

Kelly Stock

Kaylee Seymour

Jenny Nichols

Claire Barker

Clare Head

Jane Harris

Jo King

Apologies

Melinda Lavender

Miss Stock first took the parent forum members to see the falconry display – the term reward for attendance. They were surprised by the number of children awarded (214) – over half the school.

### Front of School Design

Miss Stock showed the suggested design for the front of the school. Parents agreed the design will help with reducing the overcrowding.

They agreed that we should try one bike shelter and if it proves insufficient to later add the bike rack.

They asked that the design be altered to cut down the trees at the front due to the amount of pigeon mess. ACTION: Miss Stock to amend design.

### One minute silences

Miss Stock explained that previously some parents have complained that they do not want their children to be aware of terrorist attacks or upsetting news. Miss Stock explained she has been careful to make the recent one minute silences optional to respect parents' views as she cannot hold the minute silence without some reference to what has happened. Parents said they understood the recent letter about this but think the suggested opt in requires parents to know about the silences and phone in etc. One parent wrote in to ask that it be an opt out system instead as she felt that would reflect the majority of parents' views. The forum agreed an opt out system would be more practical. There was some discussion about what kind of minute silences i.e. Remembrance day, terrorist attacks, tragedies such as the Grenfell fire. It was agreed it would be too complicated to distinguish and needs to be a blanket all in or out. It was agreed that Miss Stock should ensure the

explanations for the silences are age appropriate using News Round or First News which are both primary resources. The explanation should explain what the silence is for without bias. ACTION: Miss Stock to send out a letter to opt out of minute silences.

#### Feedback from parents

Claire Barker shared that two parents have contacted her to say they do not want trips to London.

Kaylee Seymour added this also reflected parents' views in Year 1 and Reception. She asked if an alternative to Kidzania could be organised. Miss Stock said there would be.

It was agreed that letters regarding all trips, but especially those to London should be sent out in plenty of time so parents can decide and the school can judge whether there is sufficient interest and numbers to go ahead.

Some parents in Reception and Year 1 say the website photos are out of date and look a bit boring. The spring menu hasn't been updated and the calendar is not easy to see on phones. Miss Stock said there is a page giving instructions on how to set your phone up to view on a phone. ACTION: Miss Stock to remind teachers to check photos are up to date and more inspiring. The summer menu will be uploaded.

A parent asked if the after school club follows the school healthy eating policy as they believe it's just toast and biscuits. They would also like to see the dinner menu for the after school meals. Miss Stock explained the toast and biscuits are the snack but there is also fruit but she will ask the after school club to offer a healthier range. She will also ask for the menu to be uploaded on to the website.

A couple of parents have asked for the gate to reception to be opened on time. ACTION: Miss Stock to remind staff.

In this heat can children be reminded to drink more and for packed lunch trolleys to be kept inside the classrooms. ACTION. : Miss Stock to remind staff.

Some parents have asked why we no longer do the carnival float. Miss Stock explained some teachers found this very time consuming. Jo King said she would rather the time be spent on English and Maths. Miss Stock said she is happy to mention it to teachers again but does not want to add to their work load as they already give up so much of their time.

Parents have asked about school discos – Miss Stock confirmed she had spoken with the PTA and one had been arranged for the Autumn term.

Some parents have asked for an end of Key Stage 1 assembly to celebrate Year 2 achievements. Miss Stock thought this a great idea and would arrange. Action: Miss Stock to speak to Year 2 teachers.

#### Preparation for a critical incident

Following Miss Stock's letter last Friday she explained the responsibility she feels to protect the children and staff and keep them safe should there be a terrorist attack. In some schools (London and local) schools are carrying out 'lock down' drills where children are told to get under the tables

and away from the windows. Miss Stock explained she had discussed this with the senior leadership team and would also discuss with governors this evening. The suggested plan is that she (as the only member of staff without dependants) would alert teachers using a pre-arranged signal and patrol the building to track the intruder. Young children will previously be taught a 'game' where if there teacher says a word they have to hide under their desk. This would ensure they do not experience anxiety or fear during the drill. As these minutes are public no further details will be shared.

It was discussed in some detail. Parents could understand Miss Stock's sense of responsibility but felt the increased security around the school since her arrival was sufficient. They felt that a lock down drill would be unnecessary. Instead teachers should be trained so they know what to do in that situation but this should not be shared with the children. It was agreed this feedback be shared with governors.

Jane Harris asked that a reminder be sent to parents who use the breakfast and after-school club to make sure they do not let other parents through the gate. They need to wait and be buzzed through to collect their child. ACTION: Miss Stock to remind parents.

### General

Miss Stock asked how parents felt the year had been.

KS said parents were very pleased with how the Year 2 SATs were dealt with and how the yoga and mindfulness kept stress levels down.

All agreed it had been a much better year. Communication is better and the school admits when they have made a mistake. It was agreed Miss Stock 'had learnt really fast' but needs to 'worry less about the minority of parents who are never happy.'

They asked Miss Stock how she felt. Miss Stock replied it had been a difficult year due to staffing issues. She explained that recruitment of excellent teachers is an ongoing problem as very few people want to commute to Burnham and there have been several teachers who have decided the journey is just too far. She reassured parents that she refuses to employ teachers who do not meet her expectations and she would rather teach herself if she needs to. She added she is exceptionally proud of the changes – the tea parties have helped her to find out what the children think - particularly about the curriculum and how much we offer now but also the quality of teaching and how this has resulted in the best results the school has ever seen. Children are now very proud of their work and what they are able to achieve. Children tell her how much they love school, how much it has changed for the better and this makes the hard work and stress worthwhile.

Parents asked if parents could find out earlier about teachers next year and get reports before the last day of term. ACTION: Miss Stock agreed.

Miss Stock thanked the parents for all their continued support and honesty. She knows that they feel able to speak their mind and appreciates their help in making the school better.