



## Parents Forum Meeting minutes 31/01/2017

### Present:

Pru Sheiling (Chair), Alice Bell (Secretary), Chris Booker, Abi Steel, Justin Armstrong, Vic Haymes-Greenslade, Claire Fenwick, Wendy Cook, Alistair Young, Mike Thiele, Mrs Morris

### Apologies:

Mel Armstrong, Zoe Wilkinson, Philippa Morris, Sam Shrewing, Theresa Mellor, Lisa Anderson

Welcome from Chair. She reminded everyone that the forum was an open group and that everyone would have an opportunity to put their views across. She reminded the group that we have 1 hour to discuss the 3 topics.

### 1-CLASSROOM OPENING TIMES

- Classroom opening times: Some classrooms seem to be late opening doors some days esp on running club days due to children changing clothes. Mr Theile stated that all doors should be open at 8.45am and he wasn't aware of the issue.
  - ACTION: MT to feed back to class rooms to make sure all doors open at 8.45. If necessary finding somewhere else for children to change on running club days

### 2-COMMUNICATION

#### General school/class info

- Members pointed out that communication of class level info mainly on the blogs was sporadic and varied greatly between classes. Mr Theile and Mrs Morris said that the current website has a very difficult platform for website so teachers have had loads of problems updating blogs. New website format is much easier so hopefully this will improve once new website is launched
- Newsletter: Members felt that too much information was attached to the weekly newsletter and that important info was sometimes lost in info that is often on the end of the newsletter. Members asked if the newsletter could prioritise school info and if notification of things like holiday activities/ babysitting could be sent out separately or notices put on the board outside school. It was requested that MT included a 'what's on next week' section in his part of the newsletter to highlight upcoming events.

- ACTION: MT to start including a what's on next week section of newsletter and request to Jo Andrews that only school specific info sent out with newsletter.
- It was noted that the reminder emails sent out by Jo Andrews were very helpful, but could be more so if sent out a couple of days before the event rather than the night before.
- MT has been approached by several local businesses who wish to advertise on newsletter. Forum felt it wasn't appropriate to have as part of the newsletter as already too much info. Discussion followed as to whether the school could put together a directory instead and that it could possibly generate funds for school. Concerns raised re who would put it together and whether people would want to receive it. Also pointed out that most villages have a directory that local businesses can pay to advertise in so it would just be competing with those. The forum felt that this would be very time consuming and not really the type of thing the school should be involved with.
  - ACTION: no action anyone approaching the school in future will be advised that they can't advertise on the school newsletter.

#### Child specific feedback to parents

- Parents would like more feedback on homework, lots of time is invested by parents in supporting their child's learning especially with reading and spelling. It was requested that spelling results were sent home weekly. Mrs Morris informed the group that some classes do this.
  - ACTION: Mrs Morris will speak to class teachers to ensure that every class is getting spellings results home each week, to ensure continuity across year groups
- Some parents felt that termly feedback via parent/teacher meetings were not conveying enough information and asked for a written termly report. Mr Thiele and Mrs Morris said that the meetings should tell parents how child is doing and what improvement can be made.
- Parents also expressed feelings that if a child is struggling with something in particular they should be notified as quickly as possible rather than waiting for parent teacher meeting to bring up when issue may have escalated/ be a total shock to the parent.
- Members of the forum asked that the school provided transition info (between year groups) for parents in the summer term before the new school year rather than in autumn once term has started.
  - ACTION: Noted by MT for this year

Communication is a huge topic and with the new Website going live soon communication avenues will change. So the Forum will revisit this topic at the next meeting to review.

### 3-PARKING AND ROAD SAFETY AT DROP OFF AND PICK UP

#### Issues on road access to School:

- As it stands currently there is a problem on the new road access to school as parents/grandparents/carers park on the road around the round

about . Often ignoring the yellow 'School keep clear' markings. This is putting children at risk . To add to this issue the 20mph speed limit is often not adhered to.

- It was pointed out that the layout of the roundabout makes it look like there is space to park around the outside.
- It was suggested that a DROP OFF POINT was established in the mornings for parents of year 4,5,6 students . this would allow parents to drive up to the round about, drop children by the school gate then drive away without parking or waiting.
  - ACTION: MT said he would be happy to trail this starting after half term.
- Discussion re establishing 'walking bus' for groups of children from safe parking places like Bissoe trail car park. This would need to be a parent lead project and likely hard to establish and run.
- Any further suggestions on easing congestion and road safety gratefully received.

#### Issues on Devoran Lane and Pedestrian Access to School

- Main issues here revolve around the speed of traffic on Devoran Lane and the fact that the 'School keep clear' markings are not symmetrical around the pedestrian access so crossing the road at this point is difficult due to parked cars.
- AB approached Cornwall Council about the issues prior to meeting to see if it would be possible to extend the yellow zigzags to even up the no parking zone either side of the pedestrian access. Viv Bidgood of Cormac replied to say that the yellow zigzags are a standard size but maybe possible to extend the no parking zone with the double yellows to help the situation. Viv also said that he would send action a survey on speed of traffic on Devoran lane- results expected in 2 months time. A member of the forum has personal links with Viv so will pursue this and see if he would be willing to talk to the forum about options.
- Feock Parish Council aware of issues and keen to point out they have a traffic working group (FAST- details on their website) in which they are currently changing speed limit in whole of Devoran to 20mph, among other projects.

#### AOB

- 1) Noted that transition to Devoran school from Devoran preschool is excellent but those children that don't attend the pre-school are at a disadvantage as they don't have as much contact with Miss J as those who attend the preschool. Noted that Miss J visits all children on the register for the new intake but those who attend preschool in Devoran will get more exposure.

Date of next meeting : Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017