

Parent Forum Meeting

14th June 2019
9:15am
Kildwick Church

Members Present:

Mr T Whitehead – Headteacher
1 School Governor
10 Parents

Introduction:

Mr Whitehead welcomed us all to the second parents' forum meeting. The purpose of which is to encourage communication and working together on an agreed agenda. Participating together in a constructive way by welcoming ideas that foster a positive ethos. The Parent forum is not a decision making body or a place to discuss individuals. The meetings will be guided by parents – their thoughts on what works well currently and what could be improved in the future for the benefit of the students and the school.

Main Points Covered: (updates on Action points from previous meeting)

School Communication.

Kildwick School Facebook Page.

An action from the previous meeting was to raise with the school governors that a closed facebook group could be set up (for parents only). TW raised this at a recent Governors meeting.

Actions:

The governors agreed to this and the page will be up and running soon.

School Website

The school was hoping to work with a developer called Easable, which many other local schools already use.

Actions:

TW is currently working on the finishing touches to the new website. He hopes that it may be live by the end of the week commencing 17th June 2019.

Change in school start time.

The general consensus from the meeting, was that the majority of parents wish to continue with this arrangement.

Actions:

No further action required at this time.

Playground area.

TW advised at previous meeting that the school are looking at improving the playground area in time, this will coincide with the proposed changes to the Key Stage 2 entrance, which should hopefully become Mrs Chapman's new office space.

This will mean a new entrance for students into the hall, a new cloakroom area and disabled access. The EYFS entrance would also be improved, as would a fence along the EYFS wall, looking onto the church, for safeguarding reasons.

At present playtimes are staggered, so that all children have time and space to enjoy outside.

Mr Pearson has also begun facilitating a lunchtime club, which also helps to free up some space.

Actions:

The LEA has now conducted the feasibility study and this has been passed. We are now at the tender phase of planning and are hopeful that the work on the new areas will take place in July/August during the summer break.

TW has contacted the Diocese to make them aware of the proposed EYFS area fence, along the wall looking onto the cemetery. The fence will be placed on school property/land.

The school also has some funds set aside for the playground being improved. Once the other building work is complete, it is TW's intention to have input from the school council and children themselves, as well as being open to discussion from parents, as to how they would like this to look (hopefully in the Autumn Term)

Packed Lunch Boxes

Currently these are placed in a box in the KS2 doorway. A parent raised the point that sometimes boxes are forgotten at the end of the day. So could children keep their boxes in their school bags instead?

Actions:

TW advised that after the building work through summer and the change in cloakrooms for Key Stage 2, that the plan is to invest in a stacker shelf, where children on packed lunches can keep their boxes/lunch bags.

Before and After School Club

Feedback on how the club is now run has been positive. Parents feel that there is a stronger link between the school and club now that it is managed by current school staff, children also seem happier with the food on offer from our school cook - Donna.

The school did look into whether the club should be run on our own premises, but it was decided that there would be an impact upon staff preparing for the teaching day ahead. A parent also suggested that having the club on school premises, may be detrimental to pupils who would feel the school day to be a very long one.

There has recently been some updating of equipment for club, such as new tables.

Actions:

There are ongoing discussions happening regarding the safeguarding and updating of the parish rooms.

TW also looking at updating the payment for club, going forward we are hoping to have an online payment system at the point of booking.

Revision of School Vision

The updated school vision has now been rolled out and parents and children had the opportunity to see this last Friday (7/6/19).

One parent asked if the aims had been condensed from the ones shown at the previous parents forum.

Actions:

TW advised that the new website will contain a more in-depth piece on the school aims and vision.

PTA

Unfortunately our current PTA chair – Lisa Snell is looking to gradually step down from the chair position, as of September 2019. Lisa would like to help with the transition by offering shadowing with herself over the new school year, in preparation for her leaving the role in 2020.

TW asked for any suggestions as to how we prepare for Lisas' departure.

One parent suggested that perhaps responsibility could be shared out more widely. A few parents also offered their help going forwards.

Another suggestion was that planning for the bigger events, such as the school fair could have its own sub-committee.

Consensus was that the Christmas fair for 2019 be held on a Friday after school again, perhaps with a one way system set up so that there is less congestion.

Ideas for other school events – a curry night was suggested after a previously very successful evening.

It was suggested that having the Facebook page up and running may help with encouraging volunteers.

Actions: TW to request volunteers for the chair role and for help with PTA in general.

TW also advised that there will be a PTA section on the new website.

Extra Curricular school clubs

TW requested ideas for after school clubs.

Suggestions were: Street Dance (as the past one was so popular), Cooking Club, Art Club, Music, Animation & Film, Lego Club and Gardening Club.

Actions:

TW to look into those ideas.

With regards to the music lessons, this is something TW would like to incorporate into a school day if possible (parents to pay). Ideas were piano and guitar lessons. Currently keyboard lessons do take place.

Gardening Club – TW advised that staff will be having training in the new school year, so that children can begin to make use of the Peggy Wilson field and he hopes that each class will be able to partake in forestry school once a week.

Collective Worship

TW asked parents how they felt that Collective Worship was being received since Kath Morris had taken over? One parent said it was much less intense and that the children seemed more engaged. One parent said that they felt most value, was on the children having chance to take part and being able to stand up and speak in front of people.

TW advised that collective worship in school time had also been changed. Children now have collective worship every day (in none church schools this would be known as assembly time). Collective worship in school has a Christian theme to it and the children learn how it links to their own lives.

There is also a Collective Worship school council, these pupils lead, prepare and plan how the collective worship is run by using a set them that they have been given.

Action:

TW has sent out a questionnaire to parents, for feedback on how they feel collective worship is viewed.

Yr 6 Career Day

This year Year 6 are having a careers day, a few local businesses and parents/family members have volunteered to come and speak with the children.

Parents came up with ideas of businesses that TW could contact such as: Fives, Rippon Farm Services, Airedale Chemicals, Stem.

Actions:

TW to investigate suggested businesses and or people in careers that children may not be as aware of e.g Scientists, SW Engineers/Programmers. Please contact TW if there is anyone you know who would be willing to come in for this day.

TW would also like to be able to offer the career days to Key Stage 2 and below going forward also, so that children have a greater idea of the careers paths that are out there.

Future Parent Forum Meetings

Actions:

The next parent forum will take place in the Autumn Term.