

Family Forum Minutes 18.11.16

Present	Mel Jones (MJ), Ginny Sherriff (GS), Sandra Grinevicius (SG), Andrea Hodgson (AH), Mike Warren (MW)
Apologies	Marion Clutterbuck (MC)
1.Actions From the Previous Meeting (AH)	<p>Many thanks to Mel (and Toby) for organising the new suggestion forms. We will review how these are working as part of the meeting.</p> <p>AH is in the process of devising a letter to parents, asking how they may be able to use their expertise to enhance the learning experiences of our children.</p>
2. Online Suggestion Forms (All)	<p>Thank you to the reps and parents for using the new online suggestion forms in preparation for this meeting. Unfortunately, AH and MW had difficulties in accessing the responses and send apologies to parents if their comments/suggestions were not included in the agenda. This issue has now been resolved and the suggestion forms will be used for future meetings. In preparation for meetings, reps will e-mail the link to parents, but they can also be accessed via the school website at any time. Thank you to Mr Warren for setting this up. Parents can access the forms through the 'Parents' section of the website. They should select 'Family Forum' and then select the relevant icon for their child(ren)'s class(es).</p> <p>Reps to e-mail the link to parents 3 weeks prior to each meeting. Parents to use the forms via the website whenever they wish. However, comments/suggestions will only be collated 1 week prior to each meeting.</p>
3. Community Links (AH)	<p>As part of the previous meeting, we discussed how we could establish greater links between the school and the wider community. There were no further comments/suggestions made after circulating the agenda. However, the reps had further suggestions involving the use of parental expertise and establishing links with local farms as a learning resource/experience.</p> <p>AH will follow-up suggestions made.</p>

<p>4. Four Seasons Learning Garden and School Grounds (GS)</p>	<p>A parent has suggested that the learning garden should be used more. As a school, we are extremely keen to maximise use of this excellent outdoor learning resource. Consequently, our INSET day on 31st October was focused on outdoor learning. 'Learning Through Landscapes', a well established specialist in outdoor education, delivered CPD for all staff on site. Mrs Parker leads outdoor learning in the school and has developed an action plan for increasing use of our school grounds. We are currently monitoring use of our outdoor areas and revising the curriculum map to ensure we take advantage of outdoor learning opportunities. One parent asked whether children could be allowed to play in the learning garden. Unfortunately, this is not possible due to the presence of ponds and strict health and safety guidelines regarding children's proximity to water. We have clear rules for how children behave and work in the learning garden and feel these boundaries need to be consistent every time children enter this area. It is our outdoor classroom rather than a play area. Maintenance of the learning garden and school grounds was discussed. Mr Warren is investigating whether or not Hampshire Conservation Trust could be involved on a voluntary basis. One rep suggested that the PTA might be able to fund a monthly gardener visit, focused on maintaining the learning garden and wider school grounds. If there are any parents who are able to advise/help in maintaining the garden, the school would be grateful if they could let us know. We will need advice from someone with a good knowledge of plants and wildflowers.</p> <p>All staff will be involved in the on-going development of the curriculum, maximising use of our excellent school grounds to support learning.</p>
<p>5. SATS Preparation (GS)</p>	<p>A parent has asked how they can support the children in preparation for SATs next year. Both Year 2 and 6 will undertake preparation in school, but any support at home is welcomed. For Year 6 particularly, homework during the spring term will focus on short practice papers. It is beneficial for the children to complete practice tests as the SATS require good exam technique as well as knowledge and understanding of the curriculum. Miss Hodgson recommends practice papers written by CGP which are readily available online. One rep requested Maths homework focused on multi-step problems and English homework associated with reading comprehension. Another suggested that teachers could recommend books or websites to provide extra challenge.</p> <p>AH to continue to provide homework to prepare children for SATs as she has done in previous years (this will begin after Christmas).</p>

<p>6. Fundraising by the Children for the PTA (GS)</p>	<p>A parent asked if there is anything that KS2 children need that they could raise money for. It was suggested that children could do a sponsored cross country run or something similar in order to give them sense of pride/achievement in doing something for their school and each other. This idea was welcomed by the Family Forum as it would give children something to work for and a role in developing the school. Mr Warren is currently investigating 'The Golden Mile' which is a whole school fundraising initiative involving children. We will discuss this at the next meeting. One rep suggested that classes could do their own cake sales, raising money for their classes.</p> <p>'The Golden Mile' will be discussed as part of the next Family Forum agenda.</p> <p>AH will discuss the idea of class cake sales with the PTA.</p>
<p>7. Charity Fundraising (SG).</p>	<p>Some parents requested that there were less charity fundraising events at school. One rep suggested that we compile a list of possible events at the start of the year and parents are asked which ones they would like to support. Currently the school council is involved in deciding which fundraisers to participate in. Local charities could be asked to come into school, making fundraising more meaningful for children. This has happened in the past, but we could seek further opportunities to do this. We have also had a 'Charity Day' during which children set up their own events in aid of a charity of their choice. Participation was optional.</p> <p>School to decide which fundraisers to be involved in at the start of the year, in consultation with parents and children.</p> <p>Seek links with local charities.</p> <p>Consider holding another 'Charity Day'.</p>
<p>7. Additional Comments and Questions Submitted (not included within this agenda).</p>	<p>What happens when children finish their work? (GS)</p> <p>It was suggested that children may need extra work if they complete tasks quickly. Sometimes children complete tasks quickly when they involve consolidation or practise of specific skills. At West Tytherley, we ensure children are appropriately challenged and would like to assure parents that there are not occasions when they have nothing to do!</p> <p>Opportunities for more trips.</p> <p>Remembrance Day – Could children make something for this?</p> <p>Sports Day – Could this be more of a community event with the PTA selling refreshments in order to raise more funds for the school?</p>
<p>8. Date of Next Meeting</p>	<p>Thursday 17th January 2017 (9.15am)</p>
<p>9. Date to Request Agenda Items</p>	<p>Thursday 29th December 2016 (3 weeks before meeting)</p>

10. Date to Suggest Agenda Items to AH	3 rd January 2017 (2 weeks before meeting)
11. Date to Circulate Proposed Agenda	10 th January 2017 (1 week before meeting)