

Parent Forum Meeting - 14th February 2019 6pm - 7pm

Present: Justine Watkins-Fife (y1), Katharine Humphries (y1), Richard Booth (year4), Ian Davies (y1), Lesley Howell (Governor) and Helen Spearing (Headteacher)

1. Terms of reference

HS gave out terms of reference agreed at previous meeting to parents attending the forum for the first time. HS explained the purpose of the paper.

2. Playground initiatives

HS informed the forum on the progress being carried out to revamp the playgrounds. HS explained that the work was on schedule and it should be finished by the end of half term holiday. The project has cost £38000. The PTFA have donated £4000 to help towards the apparatus. JWF asked if photographs had been taken to show the project as it unfolds then the photographs could be shown on the PTFA Facebook page informing parents/carers how money that has been raised by parents is being spent. LH to take photographs of each area of the playground and email to JWF. KH stated that she does not go into the big playground at the back of the school because KS1 children use the entrance in the small playground to drop off and collect their children. HS informed the forum that when the work was complete she would send an email to all parents inviting them to see the end result.

3. Road safety ideas

HS requested thoughts about the ongoing problem with parents parking/dropping off children outside the school gates and in the local area. HS spoke about all the other different approaches that have been made to try to tackle the ongoing problem. RB enquired what role Staffordshire county council had tackling the problem. LH replied that traffic wardens regularly moved parents off from outside the school gates however the perpetrators return the following day. HS informed the forum that she was happy to write to the parents who continually illegally park outside school and will contact SCC and request a harder approach to this issue and recommend that they issue parking fines. KH asked why parents don't use B&Q carpark. JWF suggested asking local residents around the local area to contact SCC and complain about the illegal parking.

4. Mental Health Award information

HS informed the forum about the Mental Health Award that the school is working towards. An initial audit was carried out by a mentor for the award who congratulated the school on the work it is currently doing around supporting the mental health and wellbeing of all stakeholders. It was also commented on how well this was already embedded in the ethos of St Leonard's.

5. HOPE project

LH informed the forum about the HOPE project explaining why there is a need for this project to help our children in the school. A drop in session is available for children along with lunch time clubs. A referral can be made by a class teacher, parents/carers or the child themselves. Two members of staff have undergone training and the project has now been rolled out across the school. A parents meeting will be held next term to inform parents about the HOPE project. FW commented that she thought it was a very good idea to be able to help children at an early stage. HS discussed that children will also be chosen to be wellbeing ambassadors. HS spoke about 'Peggy' our therapy dog. RB spoke about a relaxation class (Sky Blue Group) his daughter attends. It covers mindfulness and wellbeing. Could school invest in outside companies to come in to school and deliver a programme to the children? HS informed the forum that health and wellbeing was already being taught across the school through different subjects.

HS informed the forum that the school was available for hire after 6pm. A discussion was held on how to promote/advertise the use of the school to bring in extra funding.

6. Online Safety

HS informed the forum about the concerns school has about the detrimental effect inappropriate use of social media can have on the mental health of children. Online safety is taught across the school through PHSE and age related assemblies however, HS explained that children are vulnerable and that she felt that parents/carers aren't always aware of the risks involved. Online safety meetings have been arranged for parents to attend but have been poorly attended in the past by parents. HS requested thoughts on how to inform parents/carers about the risks to their children. RB suggested an online questionnaire for parents to complete. JWF suggested that the school deliver online safety when parents are attending other workshops /assemblies held by

the school. FW felt that when parents/carers read 'Online Safety' they become disinterested and thought that changing the title to name specific online games etc that children are accessing may grab the attention of the parents/carers more.

7. A.O.B

ID requested where the parents/carers would find a copy of the non-negotiables that the children were using to improve their learning. A discussion by all members of the forum about the non-negotiables and the impact it had on the children and their learning. HS to request that staff post non-negotiables for each class on the school website.

FW commented how impressed she was with all the extra initiatives and activities available to the children. HS informed the forum that activities such as cross country, football, netball, chess challenge and lunchtime clubs were organised by the staff who are committed to giving extra time to support the children.

Dates and times of future meetings for Parent Forum:

- April 11th
- May 23rd
- July 11th

All of these dates are Thursdays and start at 6pm.