



Milverton Primary School Parents' Forum



Thursday 2nd October 2014

Present: Ben Wilde, Danielle Belmega, Marianne Talbot, Kay Laurie-Stiven, Heather Fullerton, Becky Smith, Jude McNabb, Mark Lloyd, Sandra Bertolotti, Jo Potts, Sarah Nall, Sarah Onions, Aurelie Petelet

Apologies: Leonie Frazier

1. Welcome:

BW welcomed everybody to the Parents' Forum Meeting, especially those new faces and explained the background and purpose of the meetings.

2. Matters arising from last meeting:

Parent Reps 14/15

BW updated on the journey so far – currently we have lots of 'gaps' in terms of named parent reps for classes across the school. We need to fill these spaces as the role is extremely useful especially when helping to coordinate volunteers for larger events such as the Christmas fair etc.

KL-S/HF suggested that we place the job description and a list of the gaps in the newsletter again to advertise further.

3. Your views on:

Welcome Meetings Sept 2014

Parents found them 'very useful' and the comment was made about how nice it is to meet new staff and have the opportunity to speak to the teacher afterwards. Having the date set in the second week of the school term is good so working parents can secure time in their diary in advance.

The time change to 3.45 was also appreciated – parents found that much easier than the previous time of 4pm.

KL-S suggested maybe having a box of preschool toys to use as part of the crèche to encourage more to attend who may not have come in the past due younger siblings.

New School website

BW showed the new school website and explained the rationale for changing it. He explained that we are not quite finished yet but our computing curriculum leader, Alastair Geddes, is keen to receive feedback.

The purpose of the website is to act as an advertisement for possible new parents who are looking for a 'flavour' of the school and also as an interactive tool for parents and pupils.

BW asked for current feedback and encouraged parents to explore the website if they hadn't already done so.

Parents who have accessed it so far found it easy to use and like features such as the video of the 'ice bucket challenge' which children also enjoyed re-watching.

KL-S explained that the challenge is to balance the content to encourage both new parents and current parents to access it regularly.

The website will be a useful vehicle to display annual calendar dates – these are already posted in the school office section.

Action: Remove the county calendar and replace it with a calendar showing full year term dates for our school.

5. Discussion Items

School Grounds Project

BW explained the history of the school grounds project in terms of design and funding and the stalling of it which came as a result of the school expansion project (which has now been rejected). The PTA have raised considerable amounts of money over the last few years with this project in mind and have funded other projects in the meantime such as our fabulous, brand new computing suite.

KL-S explained there is a significant 'pot' which is a great starter for this and more funds will need to be raised to supplement it.

The Governors Premises Committee met earlier in the week to discuss re-launching the project. BW explained we will now need to restart the consultation process in terms of sharing proposed designs and discussing ways forwards. At the learning review meetings in November, there will be a 'stall' that parents can visit to engage in the process with BW and members of the Governing Body. Things considered so far include: balance of green and open spaces; most efficient flow of pupils around the school; the amount of sunshine received during different parts of the day; how to best use the 'road' through the centre of the playground; the best way to make the playground aesthetically pleasing; how to develop the central part of the school to create a 'hub'; drainage; and creating an extra outdoor classroom space for the infant children.

BW and Emily Lim (Chair of Premises Committee) are attending a meeting next week with a local company who may be able to help access additional grant funding. We are always open to other suggestions so MT invited those present to suggest alternatives if they know of any.

KL-S raised the point that parents are also interested to know about plans to develop other areas of the school site such as the infant toilet and the changing rooms. BW explained how we no longer receive 'Capital Funding' which used to fund building projects across the school so we always have to prioritise.

Cost and Paper Saving in School

KL-S raised the point that whilst we are aiming to become a paperless school, are there things that the children could be doing such as passing on home-school books/home learning books to the next year group and also maybe reading records?

Action: Add home learning books, home school books and reading records to the list of books to pass on to the next teacher in the summer.

Milverton Christmas Stocking

This item was raised by LF – is the Christmas Stocking too much for the younger children to cope with?

SN and JP both agreed the format is lovely in terms of having the whole school together although JP raised the point that for children who have just moved into year 1, it is a tiring evening. It would be great if it was no longer than one hour (6-7) – if we could manage that, it would work well.

Action: Ensure the evening runs from 6-7 and try to control 'slippage' so we can start on time. Keep the infant children in the hall at the end of the evening to be collected more easily.

4. AOB

KL-S mentioned the rise of the ukulele as an easy to learn instrument that seems to be overtaking the recorder. Would it be possible for David Iles to introduce this? Or maybe as part of a class ensemble?

BW suggested that David would be the person to talk to.

Action: Talk to David about the possibility of buying in ukuleles to use in music lessons.

Date of next meeting: Wed 3rd December 9.00am