



LAKE FARM PARK ACADEMY

Minutes of Parent Forum 17th October 2016

Mrs Patel thanked parents for coming to the first Parent Forum this term. Mrs Patel explained that we are hoping to make this a success this term and less formal therefore changing the name to the Parent Forum but the still with the same goal of giving parents an opportunity to have a constructive input to the school and its development.

What is a Parent Forum?

It is drawn from the body of parents of children attending the school, and it is an opportunity for parents to come together, share ideas and to put forward their views, and to develop a positive partnership between the school and families.

The meetings will run informally, and will be organised by the school. All parents are invited to attend, and we would aim to build a council up to have a wide representation for it to work effectively. The meetings will usually be once per term, and will be held at different times during school hours, and evenings, but will always be either a Thursday or a Friday, so there is the opportunity for all parents to attend.

Fundraising and Social Opportunities

Miss Austin discussed the Tesco Bags of Help scheme that we were selected for, and reminded all parents to vote. We discussed the development of the outdoor area with the use of the grant; also that the school fundraising would go toward a trim trail for the pupils.

Parents and children have enjoyed the Film nights, and would like these to be more regular. A parent suggested that they run them as £1 showings; unfortunately we are unable to do this, as to charge to view you will need to have a special licence.

Other parents suggested that we have a Christmas Grotto, Miss Austin explained that it is too close to Christmas now to be able to organise such an event, and that there are other Christmas activities coming up, such as Panto, Christmas Shows, Christmas Jumper day and the Christmas Parties. Miss Austin suggested that as such events take a lot of organising, it would be great to have a Parent Teacher Association (PTA), so that advanced planning can be done.

A parent suggested a Japanese day, as they know of a grant that can be applied for to facilitate this working with a Japanese expert; they will bring the information to the school so that we can look into it. Another parent suggested having a Multi-Cultural Celebration Day to bring everyone together to experience a variety of cuisines; this was a particularly popular idea, and further thoughts are to celebrate

different cultures as a social event at different times through the year, in line with the celebrations they have during lesson. Another focus point from a parent was about relaxation; the idea of an after school Yoga/relaxation class for all the family. Mrs Patel discussed how this happens within school at certain points during the day, and that it would be a great idea and one that will be discussed further.

Other Discussion Items

- Increased use of the notice boards of events and letters (more chalk boards outside Year 1&2)
- Use of email for parent information
- Year 2 and Singapore Maths 'How to Help' meetings
- Healthy Schools walk initiative a success, further ideas of walking, scooting and bike riding
- 'Purple Mash' ease of use for children
- User friendly school website
- Stay and Learn sessions providing a great opportunity for parents
- Safety - education in school. Already in place: E-Safety, Road Safety, Fire Safety and NSPCC. Further safety topics throughout the year, while also addressed daily in school
- Behaviour - the tolerance and recognition of children with additional needs, and how families need support.
- Recycling - 'swap shop' for old school uniforms that can be reused

Miss Austin finished by thanking attendees for their time this afternoon; the minutes from this meeting will be available on the website. She encouraged parents to consider taking more of a lead role with the Parent Forum and encouraging more parents going forward to attend.