Parent Forum

Minutes from the meeting 20th June 2018 9am

Present:

Lisa Green – Parent Norma Kelly – Parent Suzie Hawkins - Parent

Jeremy Edwards— Deputy Head Teacher Sharon Bremner — Family Liaison Officer

Apologies:

Jane Denton – Parent
Janice East – Grandparent
Jay Lake – Parent
Leanne Skinner – Parent
Elizabeth Calder
Helen Webb – Carer
Naomi White - Carer

Sanita Venedirtova - Parent Nichola Jarvis - Parent

Welcome:

Sharon reminded parents that everybody has a voice and should be allowed to be heard and make comments in an environment that is comfortable and welcoming. (Golden Rules!)

The minutes from the last meeting held on 2nd May 2018 were read out and each point was discussed:

School Playgrounds:

Face 2: Juniors.

A design has been created that will be inspirational, age appropriate and accessible to all disabilities. It is hopeful that work will commence across the Autumn 2018.

In previous Parent Forums, a request was made for a wheechair friendly roundabout to be provided. I am pleased to say this is on the plans and has been costed in.

Face 3. Upper school:

For the students in the upper school, we will be looking to provide facilities that offer more grown up equipment. The areas for consideration; agility speed, endurance and strength and a place for socialising. It is hoped that outdoor gym equipment will be installed for upper school use.

The specialist equipment focuses on balance and co-ordination to both stimulate, play and exercise at the same time.

A range of low-impact exercises that are non-competitive and fun to use. The idea is that it creates a healthy attitude towards fitness for future years. That's the plan!

Class Dojo

Action: Update:

A parent shared that she had problems accessing DOJO

FLO to speak to Steve IT manager.

I've not been made aware of any problems accessing ClassDojo? The parents are always welcome to come and speak to me or email me @ stephenfurlong@foreland.kent.sch.uk.

I would need more details as to what kind of problem they might be having for example, was it via their phones or their computers etc. Sometimes the site is occasionally 'down' so that would need to be taken into consideration as well.

Future events:

Come Dine with your Child

Sharon said that this time last year (May) we had 'Come dine with your child'. Obviously this has not happened so far this year so she will look at organising it for June.

It was discussed at a meeting and decided to hold this in the Autumn term.

Update:

There is so much going on this term, with trips out, sports days, visitors to the school, that it will be hard to fit it all in. We will look at this for the future.

Family Camp out

We are looking at the possibility of hosting a family Camp out in the summer, For Foreland Field children and their families. Families would provide their own tent and bedding. We hope to make this a great event with family entertainment, BBQ food and breakfast. We are at the early stages of planning so watch this space. There will be a charge for this event and refreshments.

Update:

Sharon explained that letters have gone e out about this event. It all depends on uptake if the Camp out is to go ahead. Early indicators show the response is low. This may change as the closing date is Friday 22^{nd} June.

Picnic in the park:

For Infant and Junior families to come into school in the summer holiday to picnic in the Infant playground. Places will be limited. Dates will be staggered over the month of August. Look out for booking letter from Sharon the family liaison Officer(FLO)

Update:

Sharon shared that she was in the process of setting this up. After checking with the Site Manager, she was told that the outside area will be unavailable throughout August due to defect work being carried out on the hard surfaces around the outside of all the class rooms.

Hopefully this will happen next Summer.

Play & Stay events for infant department:

A Parent from the Infant department asked "how come some parents have been to stay and play and not others?" I explained that these are focused play sessions and that too many adults in the room at one time would be too much for the students. I explained that these sessions are a wonderful opportunity for parents to see what is being taught in the class and for them to engage with their child's learning. I informed them that all parents will get a turn and be invited in.

One mother said she has been away and is worried that she has missed her turn. She asked if she could have the schedule or dates when parents will be invited in. This way she would know that she has not missed it, and it is coming up.

Action SB Update:

FLO to talk to head of infant department and share the above comments

Wheelchair Services.

A parent commented on the poor service she experiencing from the wheelchair service.

They offer a service for clients who need wheelchairs for mobility issues. These might be very specialised where needed, this would be identified by the child's Occupational Therapist, or they could be simple transit chairs for people who have limited mobility. Referral would be through a therapist or GP. For people already on the caseload, the contact number is 01304 842321. The service is based in Ashford and they are no longer holding clinic on the school site due to their overloaded service.

Parents comments:

Car Park:

The pillars along the pavement by the disabled bays, prevent the ramps and lifts from opening fully. That is why some of the vans and larger cars park wonky to allow for their lifts or ramps to be manageable when loading/unloading their children, in their wheelchairs. The schools finance department are getting quotes. We have listened to parents and the bollards will be removed and replaced with wedges. This will inform drivers how fair they need to reverse.

Update:

I am pleased to say the bollards have been removed and replaced with wedges so the back wheels know when to stop.

This is to make life easier for the students who rely on a ramp or lift to exit their vehicle.

A parent comment that the school busses drive fast when leaving the car park. This can be unnerving for some of the parents.

Update:

Lynda the school office manager has shared this concern and asked them to be mindful when leaving the school site.

8.	Questions from parents who could not make the meeting.
	The finishing of the school at the end of term, at the times 1.35pm Just wondering if any other parents have a problem with this, as it is a problem for me.
Update:	Jeremy commented that the finish time fits with most other school's arrangements. The time from 1.35pm – 3pm is used for staff training and meetings.
	A team came into school to discuss 'Internships' where are they now as no information is forth coming?
Update:	Supported Internships are a new initiative that will involve a small number of our 6th Form students from September. Those involved will receive more information as we have it and we will keep parents and carers updated with the process. If anyone has any questions please speak do come and speak with Paula Miller
	Date of Next meeting: TBC
	It was agreed that meetings should alternate between morning and afternoon. The next meeting will be Wednesday 26th 13.30pm Paula Miller Deputy Head Teacher upper school will be joining us.