

# Parent Forum

## Minutes from the meeting held 22.11. 2017

### Present:

Kerry Smith- Parent, School Guvnor  
Suzie Hulks  
Sharon Bremner – Family Liaison Officer  
Jeremy Edwards- Deputy Head Teacher Lower School

### Apologies:

Rachael Jemmett  
Martin Satterwaite  
Claire Chapman  
Kerry Meah  
Jane Denton  
Jean Maclachan  
Kelly Beal

	<p>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!)</p> <p>The minutes from the last meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2017 were read out and each point was discussed:</p>
1.          JE	<p><b>School Playgrounds:</b></p> <p>The fundraising for the Infant playground was extremely effective. Some KCC and charitable funds have been reserved for the Junior playground. Fund raising is still needed to get the remaining shortfall.</p> <p>The employment of Kim Debling, who is the school's full-time Funding Development Officer, will support in this area.</p> <p>Jeremy explained that is a statutory requirement for students following the Early Years Foundation Stage to engage in outdoor learning which involves the use of outdoor play equipment. For this reason, the infant playground was made a priority.</p> <p>There are no plans drawn up for the Junior playground. This will go out to tender.</p> <p>Parents requested a Wheelchair roundabout for the Junior Playground. Jeremy said he would put this idea forward.</p> <p>There will be a grand opening for the Infant Playground. This is not likely to be on the scale as the official school opening. Invited guests will be the organisations that have supported with funding. A date has not been set.</p>

	<p>The proposal for the back field area is an a football pitch, forest school and horticulture area. This is, however still very much in the planning stages.</p> <p>Parents had requested outside this meeting, the following:</p> <p><b>Question:</b>          Could parents have sessions with their children in the playground area?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Different department/classes take it in turns to have 30 min after school sessions.</li> <li>• Play day sessions for families in the holidays.</li> </ul> <p>Jeremy agreed that this would be a good idea, however the requirements to meet insurance /health and safety/ risk assessment/ policy will need to be taken into consideration before this was implemented.</p> <p>It would be lovely to just say yes, however there are procedures and guidelines which need to be in place before anything like this can go forward. And as we know, this can all take time.</p> <p>Sharon suggested maybe this could be a seasonal after-school club activity for families. She agreed to take this forward and look into it.</p>
2.	<p><b>School facilities:</b>  <u>Hydrotherapy Pool:</u></p> <p>A parent asked about having the use of the Hydrotherapy Pool. Would it be possible to hire it out to help raise some funds for the school?</p> <p>Jeremy said we have permission to hire out the hall but the hydrotherapy pool and playgrounds are very different due to the legal and health and safety requirements placed upon them. The school would like to make the hydrotherapy pool available for community use in the future but will need to plan carefully for staffing of this facility and ensure staffing costs are not prohibitive to the running of this facility after school.</p> <p>What students/classes get to use the hydrotherapy Pool?</p> <p>Pupils are referred for water-based activities in the Hydrotherapy pool by the teaching staff. Those pupils with the most severe and complex physical difficulties, as recorded in occupational and physiotherapy reports, are prioritised first. Water-based activities (including hydrotherapy style programmes) are most effective when they are regular and run over a long period of time. We try to ensure that those with the highest level of need have on-going programmes. We provide further water based opportunities, including swimming, for pupils who can access public or private pools. This is more appropriate for these pupils as it also prepares them for opportunities in the community as they get older.</p>
3.	<b>ClassDojo</b>

	<p>The school is currently trialling the use of ClassDojo. This is a web-based app that allows engagement between the school and parents. It can be used to share pupil work and to share and reward achievements.</p> <p>Once we have populated the site, and are ready to launch it, we will be writing to all parents providing sign-up details.</p>
4.	<p><b>School Website:</b></p> <p>A parent said that she has problems looking on the school website when using her phone. The layout is different on mobile phones to the website. This causes problems when trying to look at the school blog or the dates on the diary.</p> <p>FLO has reported this back to Adrian Mount the Headteacher. He said that dates are added to the website all the time, this information moves across the front page of the website. Because this is the case information has not been put onto the calendar page. Because of the different layouts on phone, dates will be added to the calendar page as well. This may help with viewing.</p> <p>Note – Dates will be added to the calendar on the website within the next few weeks.</p>
5.	<p><b>Parents comments:</b></p> <p><u>Students school work:</u></p> <p>A parent asked when do they get their child’s class work. Jeremy replied that depends on the class, some take it home throughout the year, others at the end of term. It was also discussed that some work does not have a finished product, that is why class teams take photographs to evidence students’ progress.</p> <p><u>Planning permission for the Gypsy Pitch:</u></p> <p>A parent asked if there was any update on the planning permission for the Gypsy site next to the school?</p> <p>All information about the proposed site will be on Thanet District Council Planning website <a href="https://planning.thanet.gov.uk/online-applications/">https://planning.thanet.gov.uk/online-applications/</a></p> <p>There has been a letter submitted from the school objecting to the proposal.</p> <p>Additional information was requested by the council, an ecological appraisal report, which has since been received. The school received an opportunity to comment further on the application just before Christmas.</p>
6.	<p><b>Social Media - Facebook:</b></p> <p>A parent said there was some confusion with conflicting information on the parent page on Facebook. Some classes were invited to come into school wearing Halloween costume. This information was put on to the Facebook Page and other children from different classes joined in. This caused some confusion for staff and students. Sharon explained that the site is run by a parent, for parent/carers who have a child at the school. School staff do not have any access or authority over this account.</p>

	<p>Parents/carers are asked that should they require any information about ytheir child's class or the school, always check with the school first by phone or through the child's contact book.</p> <p>It is also requested that parents ONLY put their own children on any social media sites, not other students from the school.</p>
	<p><b>Date of Next meeting: TBC</b></p> <p>It was agreed that meetings should alternate between morning and afternoon.</p> <p>The next meeting will be 7<sup>th</sup> February 9am</p>