**Parent Forum**

**Minutes from the meeting 30th January 1.30 pm 2019**

**Present:**

Kerry Smith – Parent

Mr & Mrs Mayhew - Parents

Sarah Thorp– Deputy Head Teacher

Sharon Bremner – Family Liaison Officer

**Apologies:**

Natalie O’Neil – Parent Charlotte Andrews – Parent Leanne Skinner - Parent

Samantha Seymore – Grandparent Mrs Tweedale – Parent Julian Bigg - Parent

Holly Clifford– Parent Debbie Barker – Parent Jane Denton - Parent

Tracey Humphrey – Parent Alan Balwiers - Parent Paul Arnold - Parent

Amal Kalim – Parent Liz Calder – Parent S. Abbott - Parent

Anthony Peirce - Parent Claire Friend – Parent S. venediktova - Parent

Sharon Fennell – Carer Matthew Swift – Parent D. Grineviciene – ParentKerry Ann Scamp – Parent Mr & Mrs Besant

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| 1. | **Welcome:**  Sharon thanked people for coming and commented that it is a shame it is a small turn out.  Sarah Thorp the new Deputy Headteacher was introduced to the parents.  Sharon apologised that there has not been a proper meeting since June last year. The October meeting was cancelled because of circumstances beyond Sharon’s control, and the meeting that was held last term only 2 parents attended. |
| 2.  3.  Action Sarah: | **Parents comments on reply slip:**  **Charites events: Oct 18.**  From the June parent forum, the following message was received from Holly Clifford: Thank you Holly.  *We did nothing for Jeans for Genes day 21st September We thought it was odd considering a portion of the pupils are affected by a genetic condition, and other school marked the occasion, perhaps we can do it next year?*  Sarah who leads theSchool Council explained that the School Council/ Rights respecting Rangers decide whIch charities we are going to support for the year. The school council is made up of students from all departments.  Rights respecting Rangers are a group of pupils and students who form the steering group for our rights respecting work in school. They lead activities and events about supporting the rights of children.  Next term, Rights Respecting Rangers will be leading the FairTrade event in School. This is now an annual event. This year the pupils will be learning about FairTrade spices such as ginger and cinnamon. Sharon and Sarah discussed the possibility of a FairTrade Coffee morning with some gingerbread made by students.  School Council are a group of pupils and students from each department. They are democratically elected by their peers. They ensure that pupils and students have a say in the running of the school. They often choose which charities to support and they help to run events.    The elections for students to be a member of the School Council happens in the month of Jeans for Genes day, so there is no time to organise for this event. Sarah said that she will put the proposal to the this year’s elected School Council – so that Jeans for Genes day can be considered. |
| 4.  Action Sharon: | **Rights Respecting Schools**  The Unicef Rights Respecting Schools Award recognises achievement in putting the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child at the heart of the school’s practice to improve well-being and help all children to realise their potential.  Foreland Fields School was awarded Level 1 of the Award in May 2017. Since then we have been working towards achieving GOLD Award. The assessment took place on 23rd January. The Assessor made some very positive comments, and we have recently heard that the school has been awarded Gold Level.  Sarah explained how the students were involved in ‘Gift in a Box’ you may know of it as Love in a Box? Students have been involved with the whole operation of getting supplies, packing boxes, writing out notes and passing the completed boxes over to the transportation that will take them out to Croatia. This has been a wonderful charity for the children to get involved in, not only can they see where the boxes ended up, but they are helping other children in a different country who are not as fortunate as themselves.  Students wrote a letter to Michael Gove Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs about Air Pollution Copy of letter on the website Rights Respecting School website page.  *Mrs Mayhew* said she is concerned about the mini buses waiting for students who keep their engines running. The smaller students and children in wheel chairs are at exhaust height and are breathing in the fumes. This was raised in a previous Parent Forum meeting. The question was put to the drivers about keeping their engines running. Some of the Mini buses have to have their engines running so the lifts can work.  Remind the drivers and ask if they can turn their engines off if they do not need to keep them running.  **Update:**  *08th February 2019 Sharon spoke to the manager of the drivers and reminded him. He said he will speak to the drivers and remind them to turn off engines when stationary not needed for the lifts.* |
| 5. | **School Playgrounds:**  Phase 2: Juniors.  The plans are all drawn up for the playground, work is hopefully going to have begun by Easter. It this very exciting for the school.  Kim who was the fund raiser for the school has left the school and is now working for the National lottery. Hillary has stepped into Kim’s shoes and she will be raising money for phase 3 of the Playground project. This is possibly for outside Gym equipment for the upper school students. |
| 6.  Action  Sarah: | *Kerry Smith* asked if there was any way that she could find out about the curriculum that is being taught for that term. She said her daughter is nonverbal and cannot tell her what she has been doing. Sarah said letters went out at the beginning of term explaining the topics that will be taught in the classes. This is also discussed in goal planning. Sarah will feed this back to SLT.  Introduction letters from Leaders of Learning. Sarah to talk to the senior leaders. |
| 7. | **Parents comments:**  **Why are some parking spaces reserved for Taxis?**  Some parking bays directly outside the main school entrance are coned off to prevent parents/cares from parking in them. This is due to some of our pupils on school transport requiring easy access to or from the main entrance. This can be for student and carers safety or students’ medical conditions.  Parking bays with disabled markings are designed for use by parents of wheelchair users. These bays are wider in order to accommodate ramps or wider door openings and there is a dropped curb along these bays.  The disabled bay that sits on its own next to the motor cycle bays, does not have a dropped curb. So the bus that parks there to collect a student, parks at an angle. The arrangement is that this student arrives later and finishes at 2.30pm to avoid obstruction.  There are two car parks for the school. Staff know to leave the bottom of the big car park free for parents, this also leave 28 parking bays for parents and visitors to use in front of the school.  We have staff positioned at all points along the path to help with students and traffic. |
| 8.  Action  Sarah: | **General update:**    **Notice Boards:**  We hear so often that parents do not always get to read the letters that get sent home. We try to share information every way possible. All letters that get sent home a copy goes onto the school website. Sharon has also changed the way she advertises on the two notice boards. The main notice board outside reception will have a copy of all letters going out to the whole school on it. The notice board next to the secondary entrance will be have general information about organisations and things that may be of interest use for you.  **Class Dojo:**  We discussed welcome packs for parents/carers of new students. It was suggested that information about DOJO would be a good item to include in the pack.  Talk to senior leadership team about Welcome packs. |
|  | **Parents comments on reply slip: Jan 19.**  On closing:  Foreland Fields school seems to have a wide range of activities which sound fun. *Childs name* comes home very happy*.* |
|  | **Date of Next meeting: TBC**  It was agreed that meetings should alternate between morning and afternoon. The next meeting will in the morning. Date to be confirmed. |