

MINUTES OF PARENT FORUM MEETING 2, 2018

DATE: 15th March 2018

PRESENT: Head teacher Mrs Hawkes

Parent representatives by class:

Reception: Louise Giles
Year 1: Elaine McShane
Year 2 Claire Brennan, Shirin Stewart
Year 3 Lynda Archer, Kathryn Cox
Year 5 Gillian Warwick Thompson
Year 6 Ren Behan

APOLOGIES: Reception: Emma Taylor
Years 1 & 4: Laura Lewis
Years 4 & 6: Julie McConnell
Year 5: Vicki Bromwich

The second Parent Forum meeting of 2018 was held today, chaired by Mrs Hawkes.

Due to one parent having to withdraw from the Parents' Forum group due to work commitments, Mrs Hawkes asked if class reps could enquire if any other parent in Year 1 and in Year 4 wished to take their place.

Points raised from the minutes of the last meeting (25th January 2018)

- *Appointment of a New Head Teacher:* With regard to the appointment of Mr Bedford as Head Teacher from the start of the next academic year, Mrs Hawkes expressed how delighted she is with the decision; she stated that in her opinion, he is definitely the right person for the job and his appointment will ensure a smooth transition for the school.
- *Appointment of Deputy Head Teacher as backfill for Mr Bedford's current role:* The role has been advertised and the closing date for applications was Tuesday 13th March. Shortlisting will begin on Friday 16th March, with interviews taking place the week of 19th March. Mrs Hawkes is hopeful that an appointment will be made by the end of term. Mrs Hawkes noted that it has been encouraging that we have once again received so many applications, especially given that a number of local schools are also recruiting similar roles.
- Mrs Hawkes advised that once Head Teacher, Mr Bedford will not continue with his current teaching commitments and that it is expected that the new Deputy Head Teacher will take over Mr Bedford's current responsibilities.
- A query was raised as to whether the school might decide to appoint Assistant Head Teachers; Mrs Hawkes stated that she feels that the appointment of Assistant Heads is

unlikely but that Mr Bedford will review any changes to the Senior Leadership Team he feels are necessary.

- *2018/19 Term Dates:* It has now been confirmed by Mr Bedford that term will begin for children on Wednesday 5th September 2018. Monday 3rd and Tuesday 4th September will be staff inset days.

Children's use of mobile phones

- Mrs Hawkes raised her concern regarding a situation that has arisen over the last couple of weeks. She was alerted by a parent and a different source to the fact that a number of children in the lower juniors and older years have iPods or their own phones and have been involved in group chats with one another. Pictures have been posted (some innocent, others less so), and quite inappropriate language has been used in messages on the group chats.
- The 'chats' have been taking place outside of school (phones and other tech are not allowed in the school). Mrs Hawkes stated that the language used in the messages is not being used in the school and most probably isn't being used in the home; however she's concerned that the inappropriate language and pictures are being seen as being 'okay' by the children as it's not being said out loud but written/sent in messages.
- Mrs Hawkes has been in touch with the police with regard to the incident and is arranging for one of the specialist E-safety officers to come to the school to speak with pupils, most probably by class.
- Mrs Hawkes will also be arranging a parents' session with the police officer and asks that Parent Forum Reps publicise the session and encourage maximum attendance given the seriousness of the issue of E-safety for our children.
- The school already runs various E-safety workshops with the children via external facilitators; there were KS1 and KS2 assemblies a few weeks ago on the importance of kindness when online.
- Sessions have also been run for parents, although Mrs Hawkes noted the very disappointing attendance of these events and she once again reiterated the importance of attending these sessions in order to safe guard our children online.
- Mrs Hawkes sympathised with the difficulty parents have monitoring children's use of technology given the pressure parents are under by their children (and indeed the peer pressure children themselves are under), to use technology in this day and age, plus the fact many of us parents often aren't as tech-savvy as our children. She is hopeful that the upcoming session will give parents the insight and tools to help protect our children online.

Topics raised by Year 3 parents

The Year 3 Reps asked their class parents for any contributions to the agenda and the following issues were raised:

- *Coat Hooks in the covered outdoor area (in front of Year 4):* Children attending outdoor after-school clubs often leave their clothes here when the playing field is

muddy so that the kids don't re-enter the gym, and clothes are getting wet and/or trodden upon. Mrs Hawkes agreed that the school can arrange for hooks to be put up in this area.

- *Bench posts by the Back Gate Entrance:* Mrs Hawkes explained that a parent, Mr Reidy, has very kindly donated a bench to replace the one removed by the back entrance. The existing stumps will be removed and the new bench installed.
- *“Parking outside school gates should be banned”:* It was queried whether the school can apply for hazard markings to be painted on the road as some parents park right up by the gates and are seemingly unaware of the safety hazard this causes when children arrive and leave the school grounds. Mrs Hawkes explained that this is outside the school’s jurisdiction and that the Highways Agency are responsible for the management of road safety issues outside of the school grounds. She has previously raised this with the Highways Agency and will raise it again. Mrs Hawkes further explained that she spoke to the Council about installing double yellow lines or residents only parking in this area but unfortunately, they refused to take any action.
- *Homework after-school club on Fridays:* It was queried whether the school can hold a homework after-school club on Fridays. Mrs Hawkes stated that homework is supposed to be done at home as it provides parents’ with an understanding of what has been taught to our children at school and bolsters both parents’ and children’s knowledge and insight. She also raised the practical issue of who would run such a club given that the ethos behind the decision many years ago to put in place a 1:30pm Friday finish was to maximise learning time earlier in the day and to help with the government initiative passed on to schools to address teachers’ work-life balance.
- *Breakfast Club:* It was queried whether the school can run a breakfast club. Mrs Hawkes explained again that this is not something the school can run given that prior to the school day starting, as well as during the early part of the school morning, all areas of the school are in use either in classroom prep work or with pupils. Mrs Hawkes asked whether the issue of a homework club and a breakfast club could be put to Club Kidz who currently run an after school club available to St Adrian’s pupils.
- *Extended after-school clubs - could they run until 5.30pm-6.00pm?:* Mrs Hawkes reiterated that the after-school clubs are not meant to be a form of childcare but are there to provide children with a means to explore their hobbies and interests. As such, there is no reason for the clubs to run any longer than they do already. Mrs Hawkes noted that a number of teachers run clubs and give up their time to do so.
- *Notice of events (e.g. World Book day, History Day All Saints Day):* Can parents be informed at the beginning of the school year what days will be observed to help with arranging appropriate outfits in good time? Mrs Hawkes agreed that this is a very good point and she will endeavour to ensure that this happens going forward.
- *Head shots of Teachers/ TAs on website to help parents identify staff:* Mrs Hawkes agreed that this is another very good idea and will make the necessary arrangements.

A.O.B.: None

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday, 10th May 2018 at 2.15pm (time changed from 2:30pm to allow more time for discussion).