

MINUTES OF 3RD PARENT FORUM MEETING

DATE: 10th May 2018

PRESENT: Head Teacher Mrs Hawkes
Deputy Head Teacher Mr Bedford

Parent representatives by class

Reception: Louise Giles, Emma Taylor
Year 1: Elaine McShane, Emma Johansson
Year 2: Claire Brennan
Year 3: Lynda Archer
Year 4: Julie McConnell
Year 5: Vicki Bromwich
Year 6: Anita Jenkins

APOLOGIES: Shirin Stewart (Year 2)
Kathryn Cox (Year 3)
Shana Iaccarino (Year 4)
Gillian Warwick Thompson (Year 5)
Ren Behan (Year 6)

The third Parent Forum meeting was held on 10th May 2018 chaired by Mrs Hawkes.

New parent representatives for Yr 1, 4 and 6 were welcomed to the forum - Emma Johansson, Shana Iaccarino and Anita Jenkins.

Mrs Hawkes suggested that Nursery parents whose children will be moving up to Reception should be asked if they would like to join the Parent Forum in September.

ACTION: Louise Giles and Emma Taylor to speak to Nursery parents.

Points raised from the minutes of the last meeting held on 15th March 2018

- Mrs Hawkes expressed her delight with the new appointments of the Head Teacher and Deputy Head Teacher for St Adrian's, both done within a 3-month recruitment process and attracted 5 applications for each post, all of whom were of very high calibre. It was noted that this was particularly pleasing given the criteria for the position that they must be a practising Catholic, which limits the number of potential applicants.
- The new Deputy Head Teacher will take over Mr Bedford's current responsibilities. It is hoped that he will be able to come along to the Open Day so that he can meet St Adrian's parents.
- With regards to head shots of teachers on the school website, Mrs Hawkes gave it serious consideration, but due to a recent incident in which a teacher at St Adrian's was the victim of abusive language directed at them on a blog, she felt that staff should be protected from

their images being used inappropriately by individuals. It was therefore decided that photographs would be put up on the notice board in the entrance hall by Reception rather than on the website.

- Hooks will be put up underneath the outdoor shelter by the lost property box so that children can hang their coats up when they get changed for afterschool activities.

School Updates

- A whole school photo has been booked for Wednesday 27th June.
- Interviews are taking place this week for another class teacher so that Mr King can focus on working with booster groups.
- Mrs Hawkes and Mr Bedford were delighted to share the news that the school has been successful in securing a £90,000 grant for building work needed to update the children's toilets and provide more appropriate areas for teachers to carry out booster sessions.
- The proposal would see a complete re-fit of the toilets in the Year 1 and Year 2 classrooms and the downstairs Junior toilets.
- The upstairs Junior toilets would be taken out completely and along with a section of the landing area, it would be turned into a new learning space for booster sessions.
- The dividing wall that separates the 2 small rooms in the library would also be removed to provide a larger learning area more appropriate for groups of 12-14 children when classes are split during Maths and English lessons.
- The school are currently waiting on costs from contractors and the aim is for the work to be undertaken during the 2018 summer holiday.
- It is hoped that the split class structure for English and Maths can then be rolled out for all years from 1 to 6 from September 2018.
- A discussion then ensued with regards to the split class teaching structure. Mrs Hawkes and Mr Bedford explained that it was introduced 4 years ago following the OFSTED inspection and is a pioneering method that was initially tested by splitting Maths and English classes in Yr 6 and just Maths in Year 5. The results have been exceptional, which is why the school have decided to roll it out further down the year groups. No matter what level a child is working at, statistically their progress has been proven to be higher than expected due to splitting the class sizes. Children are benefitting from smaller learning groups with qualified teachers and no matter what learning group a child is in, there is no ceiling as to the level they can achieve, or the progress they can make. Mr Bedford also made the point that this also improves their confidence as well as academic performance, meaning that Year 6 children are totally ready to make the move to secondary school.
- It was agreed by all present that this is a real success story for the school, but although it has been presented at various parent meetings and written in the newsletter and previous Parent Forum minutes, perhaps not all parents at the school were completely aware of how

the system worked and the benefit that it has for all children, no matter what level they are working at. The ideas below were discussed regarding additional ways to share this information with parents. Further discussions will take place at the next Parent Forum meeting.

- A 10-minute presentation at the end of each class meeting that is held at the start of the academic school year.
- Parent Forum representatives to share this success story with their class parents by word of mouth in the playground.
- Mrs Hawkes to mention it during her leaving speech.
- Testimonials from children and parents to go on the screen in the entrance hall.
- Infographic handout to go in book bags with Yr 6 results and specific examples of individual pupil's progress and levels achieved from various starting points.

Parent Questions

- Some parents have asked if there are any other spaces available other than the dining room to listen to children read, as when there are quite a few children reading out loud in the same area, it can be disrupting and difficult to hear.

Mrs Hawkes and Mr Bedford replied to say that there is a potential opportunity in the pipeline that may be available from September.

- Parents have asked if they could get a list of which children will be reading to them each week.

ACTION: Mrs Hawkes said she will speak to the teachers to arrange this.

ACTION: Mr Bedford said that he will provide questions for parents to ask the children whilst they are reading to probe deeper understanding of the text.

A.O.B.

- None

Date of next meeting:

- Tuesday 10th July. Time TBC.