

Minutes – parents forum 25 Jan 2019

1. Attendance and apologies

Current members	
Green Cygnets – Helen Venfield and Sara Bradley	Red Cygnets – Catherine Stott and Alessandra Simola
Robins - Christine Leddy , Anna Clinch	Swans –Karen Norcutt,
Kingfishers - Katherine Pritchard (chair), Mell Morris	Woodpeckers - Kate Benson

Apologies: – Helen Venfield, Catherine Stott, Alessandra Simola and Mell Morris.

Alessandra Simola is stepping down from the parent forum due to moving away.

2. Review of last minutes

Christmas Fair – huge success, all pleased.

Dogs tied to the gates – better, but 1 occurrence last week with pick up from club.

Junior School FAQs – ongoing item: CL and junior parent forum coordinating in the spring term to send out with new school packs in June.

3. Parent Forum Chair

New chair required for 2018/2019 – all current members to consider who could take this on from Sep-19 , to discuss at next meeting, it is not an onerous task, checking emails and creating agenda once every half term. KP will meet with new chair for proper handover and joint chair final meeting in summer term.

4. Emails:

- A few emails were received from foundation parents regarding the film that the children watched before Ofsted visit: comments such as screen time limited at home, some children are scared, parents not knowing information about the film that was watched.
 - CG: As a school, we receive 4 school hours' notice of an Ofsted inspection. This provides us with a very short window when all staff can be in school to prepare together for the next 2 days, as once the inspection starts there is no time for this to happen. The only way we can do this is to accommodate all the children in the hall to watch a film (certified U). This happened between 1.40pm and 3.00pm with a break in the middle. Children were supervised by the office staff at all times. I would like to reiterate that children do not watch films in school unless we have an exceptional reason or circumstance.
- Why do the cygnets have screen time during their snack time?

CG: Children sing, listen and share stories throughout the day as part of our daily routine. We plan for snack time to include a 'story, snack and song', where children can discuss events from home, share news and certificates, sing songs and listen to stories. Where a 'video' is shown during snack

time, it always links to prior learning, for example a letter sound of the day will be shown on Espresso or 'Alphablocks', or a story that is relevant to our current work, and the children often become excited at being able to recognise themes, numbers or letters in the wider environment.

- Timing of Yr2 SATs meeting: during the day commented as not ideal for working parents.
 - CG: Evening meetings are historically not well attended, CG & JW are prepared to do evening meetings if there were enough people. Those who cannot attend will receive the slides and can ask for any information. Next year, the school will ask parents for their preference.

Other discussions and ideas:

- a copy of the slides will go home in the book bag
 - Key Stage 1: past papers and all information is available on the HMRC website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum-assessments-practice-materials>
 - CG will make sample SATS papers available for parents to review at the parent's evenings.
- PTA Christmas cards: question about whether this could be done in school as part of art/ICT?
 - AC (PTA who manages this event), current uptake is ~ 200 across both schools, making ~£250 for the schools;
 - Discussion: might be better uptake if done in school, but not in addition to curriculum tasks, only if it could be incorporated into current workload.
 - Suggestions/discussion:
 - Parent support in school – have 3 designs and parent help to complete in school time, do in groups of 6; e.g. 3 designs, fingerprint/handprint designs or part of the cygnets parent help on a Tues/Wed,
 - CG to discuss with staff whether this could be incorporated into current curriculum in October
 - Option to also send a blank proof home if families would like older siblings/joint cards to be created at home.
 - BACS transfer question instead of cash/cheque payments for trips etc.
 - CG: this is an ongoing topic and the school office has recently looked into this again. The cost is about £500 a year to the school and there are not enough transactions to justify the cost. As you don't pay for school meals while children are in infants, there aren't enough parent transactions to justify the cost to the school.
 - 'Meet the teacher' meeting: the term is misleading and sounds more like a 1:1 rather than a group information session, could the title be changed?
 - CG: yes, agree. Will look into renaming to something more appropriate e.g. 'curriculum overview' or something similar.

5. AOB

None.

Next Meeting: Fri 22-Mar-19 9am