

Cove Junior School

PARENTS' FORUM

Monday 17th December 2018 2.45pm

MINUTES

1. Welcome & Introductions

In Attendance:

Tracey Hickie

Warren Gargan

Lucy Godfrey

Naomi Treanor

2. Homework

Discussion held about the new arrangements for homework:

~ Raised expectation for 5 reads each week was received positively.

~ The problem with homework diaries not accommodating reads at weekends was raised.

This issue has already been rectified; Spring term diaries will run from Saturday to Saturday.

~ Topic homework is a good time for parents to be involved although there is an awareness that parents can be tempted to 'take over' a bit. The school's decision to make these activities optional could take the pressure off some families.

~ A request was made to share more information with parents about what the Year 4 times table tests will be like. This will be shared with parents next term.

~ Bug Club is viewed positively although it can be overwhelming for some children to have a choice of 30 books at once. Unfortunately, this is the way that Bug Club is set up to make book allocations manageable for teachers and to provide the children with a choice of texts.

3. Road safety

~ Concerns about the number of parents who are parking unsafely on Fernhill Road. The main concerns are when cars are being parked on the pavement. This prevents children from being able to walk, cycle or scooter safely to school and prevents problems for those parents with pushchairs.

~ Letters are sent out to parents who have been observed parking or dropping off their children in an unsafe way. The suggestion that parents could also report unsafe parking was made.

~ School to consider asking the Junior Road Safety Officers to be outside school before and after school to monitor traffic.

4. Pathway to Blunden Hall resurfacing

~ There was a general feeling that more parents would use the Blunden Hall car park if the alleyway was in a better condition. School will contact the local council to enquire about the possibility of resurfacing it and to establish what their maintenance programme is.

5. Attendance badges

School is currently reviewing the issuing of attendance badges and a discussion was held about the future of them. There was a general feeling that at this age group, it is the parents' influence that determines overall attendance levels and that it is unfair for children who are genuinely unwell to miss out on rewards.

6. Positive behaviour awards
School is currently reviewing the Behaviour Policy and a discussion was held about the possible introduction of a daily reward system for positive behaviour. This was viewed positively by parents.
7. Fundraising
School wanted to establish whether the fundraising activities which have taken place this term were 'balanced' . Parents felt that there had been a reasonable number of events and acknowledged that all fundraising events were voluntary so those parents who did not want to take part did not have to.
8. A.O.B.
Ideas raised for the agenda for the next meeting:
 - ~ Summer Fair and parent volunteers
 - ~ Residential trips
 - ~ Timing of meetings – meetings to be kept at the same time
9. Date of next meeting – 5th March 2:45pm