

Parent Forum 1st October 2019

Present – Pat Speed, Dymna Bradley, Caz Solkin, Alex Jones, Denise Wright, Shelly Knight, Phillipa Lewis, Heidi Smith, Luke Skiffington, Chris Walsh, Helen Clint, Kavi Kvamme.

Apologies – Samantha Currie, Michelle Wilson.

Review of last minutes – The only outstanding action was to find a swimming lesson provider for Year 3. The children are now attending Formby Baths on Thursday afternoons.

Parentapp – This was asked about last year before our current technical and communications support systems were updated. We use our School Website, SIMS, SIMS Pay, Parent mail and Groupcall. As a school we are aiming for paperless and cashless systems, which we have made enormous strides towards. The services that these provide are comparable to Parentapp (the only exclusion is a phone app, which would be a considerable extra cost).

After School Provision – At the moment we use the services of child-minders, Junior Club of Crosby and Kids Planet. As a school, we understand that is not ideal for some of our working parents/carers and that they would much prefer a wraparound service on these premises. Space, staffing and quality provision are still major factors. Governors and SLT will continue to review the situation when the new build extension is complete in 2020.

After School/lunch/ before school Clubs – We continue to try and do a broad range of clubs across different year groups. At the moment we are offering golf, football, drumming, choir, drama, Lego, athletics, netball, recycling club and Go-Givers. Music Makers is commencing soon and 2 Yoga Club providers are now in talks with the school. I have contacted the cookery club provider but they will only work with Year 3 and above and are very expensive. A craft club has been suggested too (awaiting a response), which I will look into. These activities are continually reviewed and again cost, space and good provision are taken into account.

Building extension – Building work will commence in Jan 2020. Electrical and mechanical surveys have been carried out and the work will go out to tender next week. Sefton are fully funding the build of 1.6 million, which includes refurbishing the inside too. It will provide 3 extra classrooms, new reception/office area, and internal path on school premises from Enbutt Lane. The builders will also make good the playground markings and create a grass amphitheatre for outside learning.

Maths No Problem – This curriculum scheme began in Year 3 last year. Parents/carers were concerned that the work book was not fully completed. Teachers and SLT have confirmed that this is not an issue as the relevant bits were fully covered and the teacher has the flexibility to dip in and out of it. This method gives our pupils the very best problem solving/exploring different strategies for solving more complex calculations possible. It all leads into their Year 6 SATS preparation. Webinar and workshops will be looked at in maths and other subjects.

Star of the Week/manners certificates/100% attendance certificates – These all form part of our Behaviour Policy. Star of the Week can be awarded by the class teacher for work, effort, manners, or following an example from our Code of Conduct. Manners certificates are given in the lunch hall (packed lunches or hot dinners). 100% attendance are given termly and for the whole year. A certificate and a chocolate bar are given out in Star of the Term. These are very prestigious and gives the children something to aspire to. We empathise that some illness is no one's fault and that sometimes we just have to stay off school to help us get better.

Fantasy Football League – Mr Canell has confirmed we are running it again this year. Letters to follow shortly.

Year 6 Pupils – SAT Preparation. Mrs Speed emphasised that the children do not need any additional pressure put upon them leading up to just one week in May. There will be the usual booster classes after Christmas and if parents wish to do anything now, it should just be completing homework, learning their times tables and reading for pleasure.

Gate Congestion – The gates open at 8:40am and close at 8:55am. Anytime between these is fine to arrive at school. It was noted that the Endbutt Lane entrance to school has been late opening on occasion, this will be addressed.

Year 4 – We have 3 classes in year 4 to accommodate 97 pupils. The staff in place are 3 teachers, 3 Teaching Assistants and 2 funded 1-1 support staff.

Reception – Currently have 85 pupils on roll. If this remains the same the classes may go to 3 next year.

Photographs/videos for personal use – Our policy still remains the same outlined by Sefton Safeguarding Board. Please see previous minutes.

Website Events Calendar – Could we look at changing it to a more readable format of a month at a time on grid format? This will also be looked into.

Next Meeting Tuesday 28th January 2020 – 7pm

Agenda items next time - Nursery into Reception, quicker phase-in for pupils who have been in full time Nursery provision.