

## Parents' Forum meetings - minutes

Date of meeting	11 <sup>th</sup> July 2017
Time and location of meeting	9am – staff room
Person taking the minutes	Mrs Clark
People present	Mrs Davis, Mrs Lister (GH) Mrs Byrne (CP) Mrs Waller (LB) Mrs Metherell (BF)

### **Collective worship**

Reception and year 3 children raved about the collective worship with Aneal and puppet 'Theo' 'It was the best assembly ever'

### **Sports week and swimming gala**

There was generally good feedback from Sports week and the swimming gala with praise to the teachers and teaching assistants and Mrs Seddon Hall who organises the events. The Sports week currently takes place in the week of two INSET days, and incorporates two events – KS1 & KS2 sports days and the swimming gala the following Monday. It was very enjoyable. Parents asked: Could we not have them on consecutive weeks in order to consider the needs to be given to working parents and taking a lot of time off in a relatively short period of time. School was also asked whether the races could be more fairly allocated so that the same children didn't always win the races. Mrs Davis said sports day covered team work and sportsmanship as well as athletic ability and that it gave children who may not be academically strong to have an achievement. In the days leading up to sports morning/afternoon good sportsmanship is emphasised and children are encouraged to celebrate all the winners. The swimming gala was felt to be a little unfair to children in the 5 & 6 groups as their lane was smaller.

### **End of day arrangements**

The arrangements for the collection of children at the end of the day were discussed after a parent raised concerns that it appeared too relaxed. Mrs Davis stated that at present we ask parents to send their children into school with a note if someone else is collecting their child, any last minute changes can be telephoned through to the school office. In most cases it is another parent from school who is collecting the child and the teacher will always insure that the child leaves with the correct adult. We have VERY robust procedures in place for situations where we are advised by parents that certain adults are not allowed to have contact with their child. The teachers at the end of the day know that their children are going home with a known adult and do not let their children go until they know this.

### **Cycling celebration**

The celebration of cycling week has raised problems for some parents in getting the children to school either with negotiating the journey safely to school or having to bring the bike in their car. Mrs Davis stated that learning to ride a bike was an essential life lesson that serves the children well as they grow up. Parents need to assess their own journeys and take steps to ensure they can supervise their children on the journey to school. We have children of lots of different abilities and some children may not have a bike and they can bring their scooter, some children don't have either and in which case they can borrow one of our spare scooters or bike. To help with congestion then the children who are coming on their allocated day can take their bike or scooter into the playground on the day. This event only happens once a year.

### **PE on hot days**

A question was asked as to whether the children were allowed to have a drink whilst having PE on hot days. Mrs Davis confirmed that although they may not take their water bottles onto the astro-turf the children are allowed to leave to have a drink from the water fountain.

### **Abacus**

Homework did not appear to be set recently – Mrs Davis will look into this.

### **Parents Evening**

If a class has two teachers can both of them be at both nights for parents evening? Mrs Davis said that the teachers always discuss the children prior to meeting with parents and that if both teachers were present the sessions would take longer.

### **Commercialisation of school events**

A parent had commented that school events were becoming too commercial with requests being made for money on too many occasions eg the sale at pompoms and paying for adult races at Sports day. Mrs Davis said that in the past refreshments have been sold at Sports Day and it was only £1 to race, which most parents where happy to give to the PTA. Mrs Davis said that contributions by parents to school funds are always voluntary. Unfortunately due to a shortage in state funding schools now relied upon funds from parents. Mrs Davis explained that the PTA is wonderful at finding ways to raise funds for us that are also fun and enjoyable for children and parents, ie summer fair activities for children, the PTA give away chocolates Easter eggs to all children at the Easter church service, at the Christmas fair there the parents' present room where children can select a present to wrap for their parent. The PTA needs volunteers to help organise and run events and needs the parents to take part in the activities. One parent commented that it is sometimes hard to get support from parents to help run a PTA stall at a fair. All the money the PTA raises is spent on enriching the curriculum for all the children so the school values the work of the PTA and the parents.