

Cuddington and Dinton Church of England School

Minutes of Parent Forum

Held at Cuddington & Dinton CofE School, Dinton Site

On 7th July 2023

Present: Nicola Wilde (Chair), Ali Hadley (Y6), Ruth Redding (Y4), Rachel Miller (Y3), Poppy Smith (Y2), Samantha Rockett (R).

Apologies from Hannah Young (Y5) and Karen Gwynne (Y1)

The parent forum reps make a decision on whether they take the topics raised to the agenda for discussion. The topics should be related to the school in general, and anything relating to specific classes should be raised by the parent directly with the teacher (the parent rep will let you know if this is the case).

Item	Topic	Minute
1	Use of Twitter	It has been requested that WhatsApp is considered as a way of communication instead of Twitter. It has been assessed that WhatsApp is too much of a risk and harder to maintain when people change phone numbers etc. Twitter is great to use when out and the aim will be to use it to direct people to the website. It's simple to gain access to; it is possible to just take a photo of the form and email it to the office. Parents MUST remember to request to follow @CDSUpdate however. Mrs Wilde and Mrs Price are the only people with login so when they are not on a trip, the teacher will email them photos and they will upload. It's a great way to communicate delays when coming home from trips. The recent infant trip was an anomaly as school has received contact when the coach was in Stone that they would be in Cuddington more or less on time but there was a delay between the two places.
2	Forest School	It has been suggested that a Forest School is established. This has been tried and there are areas on both sites available for it (Infants is next to the field, and Juniors is in the wooded area next to the car park with log stools). To be successful, it needs someone with a lot of passion and enthusiasm. Some parents would be willing to help to get it going. Mrs Wilde has looked into getting an external person but this is very expensive. Mrs Wilde would love to offer it due to many benefits it brings such as the wellbeing of the children. Fundraising could be an option.
3	Transition Announcements	The school never tells the children about their new teacher until the transition day. This is because it can cause anxiety to some children, especially, for example, if they are going to have a new teacher that they haven't met. The school also has to consider the schools that new staff are coming from. It was expressed that it feels unfair that new parents of reception children knew information about next year before current

parents were told. Unfortunately, new parents did need to be told new teachers and school structure changes prior to the transition day for reception as the new parents do need to know certain information.

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| 4 | Sports Day | It has been suggested that sports day should be combined with Infants and Juniors. It ran very well this year on both sites doing it separately. There can be challenges when combining e.g. setting field events out to suit both reception and Y6 children. The house team activity was positive and long distance was missed this year. |
| 5 | Gender of Teaching Staff | It is very important that the best person for the role is selected when recruiting new staff, and this cannot be based on gender. It is best to have a fully staffed school with excellent teachers. |
| 6 | Reading/Phonics Books | It was acknowledged that the staff need to be very alert when the children are ready to move on to more advanced books with their reading. Y1 have done very well in their reading this year and Y2 did phenomenally well in their reading SATS. |
| 7 | Newsletter | It would help to have the time of events next to the dates on the newsletter. It was expressed that the links to the website are great. Would it be possible to have NEW dates to the newsletter highlighted somehow rather than just slotted in? All newsletters are archived on the website for the year. |
| 8 | Year 5/6 Performance | <p>The booking system that the school uses for ticketing had a glitch for booking the performance tickets. Staff were unable to change the setting for 2+1 tickets even though it was stating the it was possible to book 3 tickets together on the control side. The system is tried and tested, used for parents' evenings and nativity performances.</p> <p>It was mentioned that it would have been useful to know the time of day of the performance as well as the date – some people understood 'pm' to be afternoon, and some understood it be evening.</p> |
| 9 | Residentials | The residentials were very successful and many parents have expressed their thanks. At the Y3/4 residential talk, parents were told that they would receive the menus in advance so that they could go through meal choices with their children but the menus weren't sent. |
| 10 | Library Books | The library is now shut for the year and the school is in the process of collecting all of the books in from the children. Some children have the same library book for a long time and it was asked that they be reminded more frequently to change their books. |
| 11 | Open Classroom Events | There are currently two types of open classroom events – one is to come into the class and watch a class being taught, and the other is a book look at the end of the school day. Although parents can look through the books at parents' evenings, it is also valuable to look through books with the children so they |

can show their parents what they have been doing. Mrs Wilde is going to look at scheduling more of these book look opportunities next year. There are also some parent workshops planned for next year.

12 Any Other Business

Homework expectations

Clarification on the homework credit system was asked for. Homework is on the agenda for review at the beginning of next year.

Ed Shed

This has been received very well by the children and parents.

New Suppliers

The school was thanked for sourcing a new provider for both school dinners and uniform.

Meeting Close

The next meeting date is Friday 3rd November 2023.