

Parents' forum agenda 27th March at 9.00am

<p>In attendance: Gemma Hiller, Vicki Marshall (school). Alison Smith (Y1), Liz Taylor (Y6 parent), Laura Dell (Y1/4 parent), Laura Air (Y6 parent/ governor) Nyah-Grace's parents Apologies:</p>		
Agenda item	Discussion points	Actions required and who
Matters arising	<p>Info re: School photographer - previous company - Tempest - booked again for Autumn</p> <p>Anti-bullying policy feedback - was postponed from last mtg as it hadn't been ratified by governors</p> <p>INSET days in October - 2 planned to add on (24th/ 25th Oct)</p>	Add anti-bullying policy to next agenda
Notification of AOB:		
Contribution to a School Fund (annual charge?)	<p>GH: Should there be an annual contribution/ donation of £30 (£10 per term) Budget share is less this year.</p> <p>Laura D: HGSS ask for a monthly donation - they keep message going each month; we know the pressures of school - figure in mind - non committal and will appeal and get some money in; nothing in life is free</p> <p>NG: Good idea - if its a suggested donation; way you word it is important</p> <p>Laura A - nothing to lose if ask, not going to pull child out for asking this</p> <p>Liz: other schools do it</p> <p>GH to send a letter out to staff</p>	<p>ACTION:</p> <p>Gemma H to write a letter to parents asking for voluntary contribution (deadline 24th May)</p>
Enrichment days - balance (Gemma Hillier)	<p>GH - we do a lot of extra activities - is the balance right?</p> <p>NG: This is the best thing about this school - are you covering the costs? GH - we do have to</p>	SLT to create a sheet containing forward

	<p>supplement the parents who don't pay.</p> <p>LA - there are rules around charging more for parents who can't pay</p> <p>Liz - communication again - money for this and money for that - parents don't understand they can't cover someone else's child. Write a letter to explain the letter around the trips. 3 x a year etc explain benefits of in school experiences as well.</p> <p>Alison: Y1 whatsapp gp: wish they could tell us the plans at the start of the year so parents can save/ budget</p>	<p>planning for future trips eg in YR telling them about residential;</p> <p>give rough averages for each trip per term.</p> <p>ACTION:</p> <p>CW to put together a document detailing all trips/ visits for each year group with an approximate cost (deadline: 5th July)</p>
Forest School uniform (VM)	<p>Ideas about this:</p> <p>Consistent 'uniform' eg a Forest school plain T shirt not necessarily logoed.</p> <p>Just PE kit on the day</p> <p>More to consider in Summer Term</p>	<p>Tell parents in newsletter about Forest School expectations for clothing:</p> <p>Plain black tracksuit bottoms and PE T shirt or plain white T shirt. PE hoodies /coats to be worn if cold/ wet</p> <p>ACTION: CW to put in newsletter; GH to put in bulletin</p>
Attendance questionnaire (Katie Allen)	<p>There was a discussion around whole school attendance: Katie explained we wonder about what parents find challenging about getting children into school - what are the</p>	<p>School to provide guidance around sickness</p>

	<p>feelings about sending out a survey to parents (could be anonymous - but more helpful to us if names added - option?) to get parental feedback as to what ideas are around attendance. We can then support families with support groups/ sessions etc. Parents asked if they would be engaged with this:</p> <p>Liz: yes would get some good feedback; how about guidance for sick children - guilt factor is a thing; give parents guidance as to when we want a child in if they are unwell.</p> <p>Laura D: depends on patterns or if it is just adhoc - would be good to get a bigger picture and make families understand how it impacts the data/ that schools have to uphold requirements set by law & government</p> <p>Alison: Asked what the guidelines from government are if the child is sick/ continual sick? GH replied as sickness/ diarrhoea is off for 48hrs. Nothing else. VM talked about educating the children to not spread germs (eg practise handwashing in assembly)</p> <p>Katie: What about attendance certificates for 100%? Or a sticker. General feeling is that it isn't fair as the children cannot help being sick.</p> <p>Liz: Assembly talk about if the children are having problems getting in</p> <p>Alison: do you record if they are late? KA - we have a robust attendance policy and procedures to follow. We will support families for ongoing issues.</p>	<p>to help parents make a decision as to whether to send their child in to school if they have mild symptoms.</p> <p>ACTION: Katie to do a flowchart!</p> <p>No certificates to be given.</p>
School strategy (Laura Air)	<p>Laura asked the parents if they have any thoughts on school strategy:</p> <p>Capability: strength / depth in leadership/ training/ resources needed for success/ range of extra curricular opportunities</p> <p>Parent: community opportunities eg classes in hall/ parties & social events/ Easter hunt</p> <p>Strong behaviour for learning</p> <p>Equality for all groups of learners</p> <p>Sustainability: finance/ succession planning</p> <p>Environmental considerations - pricing;</p>	<p>Check on school locator websites that Widmer End CC is on these so parents can make a choice. (CW)</p>

	<p>investment in building and servicing/ academisation (LD asked about this later in the meeting) LA explained this was being looked into but ethos of the school did not fit to any we have looked at so far</p> <p>Visibility: need to attract more families to join school (parents said that the school was not on the website they searched for schools on: found school through word of mouth - sports teams being out there/ they can help with marketing/ online visibility</p> <p>Consider holding open evenings for parents who work)</p> <p>Accountability: taking a role in moving school forward - adopting Ofsted recommendations; parent/ staff surveys.</p> <p>Parents: these strands sound amazing - what do they look like in real life? LA: these feed into the SDP which guides the improvement journey</p>	
Sending cash into school (Alison)	<p>Liz : raffle tickets can now be bought online</p> <p>Pancake day - time limitations on the PTA</p>	
Date of next meeting	End of Summer Term 24	