

Parents' Forum Minutes of Meeting -Tuesday 17th January,

3.40-4.30pm.

Present: Mel Elliott, Andleeb Khan, Teacher Karen Cooper

Apologies, Tracey Mawby, Linda Marsden, Ellie Hall

Agenda items: Whole School Food Policy, School Farmers Market, Swimming Survey

1. Whole School Food Policy

Members looked through the updated draft **Whole School Food Policy** and seemed happy with most of the changes which reflect the recent aspects we have been working on, in particular the Bronze and Silver Food for Life Awards. It was pointed out that while we have worked hard to ensure children eat healthily across the school day with food provided by the school there was one area not in-keeping with the policy. That is allowing children to bring in sweets and chocolate into class for birthday treats. With the rising number of pupils (some classes have 34 children) the reality is birthdays come round most weeks during term time and the children receive sweet gifts with increasing regularity. It was suggested that children and parents/carers should be actively encouraged to think of alternative treats to celebrate birthdays. This could include fresh and dried fruits eg packets of raisins or chopped watermelon, grapes, oranges, savoury biscuits, healthy home- made biscuits, bread sticks, or inexpensive gifts such as stickers. Children could be challenged to think of different ideas and save the sweets for birthday parties and other festive occasions. This will help us to achieve our Gold Food for Life Award and bring us in line with other healthy schools in Leicestershire. Members of the Parents' Forum would like this to be added to the policy and pointed out there are other schools in Leicester that do not allow children to bring in birthday sweets. In time we would move towards requesting parents not to bring in sweet treats for birthdays in the future. All parents are invited to comment on the draft policy which will be put on the school website and a letter sent to parents explaining the proposed changes. The policy will also be considered by the whole school community including children, parents, staff and governors.

Action: KC to discuss the matter with the school council, staff, parents, dieticians and governors and gather opinions on the updated Food Policy

2. School Farmers' Market

The School Farmers' Market event is planned for Thursday 25th May 2017. Members discussed who could be invited to take part and drew up a list local schools, organisations, interested groups, and local food producers. One member agreed it was good to see Y6 pupils being involved in the event. The school Parents Association and PF will hopefully get involved with setting up and organising on the day.

Action: KC & school council to send out letters to the organisations to inform them of the event and start to drum up support.

3. Parent Swimming Survey

The group looked briefly at some of the results of the survey which showed positive responses to school swimming. The results will be collated by the school council and published with a summary on the school website in due course. They will be considered by school staff and leadership team, governors and the school council. Thanks to everyone who took part.

Action: KC Publish results

4. A.O.B

Mel Elliott would like to find out how useful people find the new school website. This will be added to the next meeting.

1. Items for the next Parents' Forum meeting : School website, school reward system,

Dates and times of the next Meetings:

**Tuesday 28 February & Wednesday 1st March 2017 (Parents Evenings)
Informal drop in sessions in the Healthy Hut 3.35- 5pm. Children's activity:
Pancake making on Shrove Tuesday.**

Tuesday 2nd May 2017, 9.30 – 1020am

Please make a note of the dates in your diary. We would be very happy to see you there.

Alternatively if there is something you would like to see on the agenda please email k.cooper@overdale-jun.leicester.sch.uk