



PARENTS' FORUM

Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 27th March 2014, at 2.00pm

Present: Stephanie Cartmel, Rachel Jones, Phillippa Culshaw-Roberts, Nicola Park, Carmel Stojkovska, Eileen Hodge.

Minute taker: Kathleen Hampson (KH) – senior school support officer

1. Welcome to new members of the Parents Forum

Mrs Cartmel welcomed everyone to the meeting including Eileen Hodge, the owner and trainer of the “Pets as Therapy” (PAT) dogs which visit our school. Mrs Cartmel and Eileen explained the work that the PAT dogs do. Although initially the dogs worked with pupils in the Nurture group, Jazz, Bodie & Mr Bo Jangles, have proved to be so successful that *all* pupils have a chance to work with them. The work ties in with Y Foryd Values i.e. gentle hands, kind words etc. Cue cards are used as visual prompts as some pupils struggle with language. Reluctant readers who may be shy about reading to adults (anxious about being judged) will read to the PAT dogs with ease. Eileen added that the PAT dogs also visit colleges and care homes to carry out their valuable work. Parents' Forum members will have the opportunity to see Jazz & Bodie in action at the end of the meeting today.

2. **Apologies:** Stacey Fenton, Nicky Ryles, Jane Ralph, Lisa Jilge, Mandy Findlay.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 30th January 2014

Minutes were agreed by Rachel Jones and seconded by Carmel Stojkovska.

4. Matters Arising

Packed Lunches

Mrs Cartmel reported that the matter regarding packed lunches was resolved following a meeting with the parents concerned. Mrs Cartmel was glad to have had the opportunity to discuss the matter.

Traffic

A number of traffic meetings have been held recently and many strategies have been tried. A list of further options were put together and submitted to Conwy Highways Department. As a result we have since heard that the zig-zag lines outside school may be extended.

There is possibility that a person could be employed to control the flow of traffic at the start & end of the school day. This would need to be a strong person covered by Conwy County Borough Council employment conditions and therefore a proper job description would have to be in place. We cannot put parents at risk.

It was suggested that bollards could be placed on the edge of pavements to stop cars from mounting the kerb.

A meeting between the Headteachers, Chair of Governors and Conwy Authority to finalise plans is being arranged. Parents will be notified of any planned changes to traffic regulations outside school, as from September 2014.

Facebook Policy

Mrs Cartmel has obtained a draft policy (from a Denbighshire school). A pastoral committee of the Governing Body will meet to agree a policy for Ysgol y Foryd and a member of the Parents' Forum will be invited to give input also.

Butterflies Reading Group

We now have a number of volunteers who visit to school to read with pupils. However, more would be very welcome if members know of anyone who might be interested.

Pirate Fun Day

This proved to be a huge success.

5. Open Day Feedback

Mrs Cartmel reported that this event was nicely attended and visitors included the Head of Education Services for Conwy, Mr Geraint James.

6. Visit to see Jazz the PAT dog in action.

Members visited the PAT dog session at the end of the meeting.

7. Easter Events

Fun Film Night – Thursday 10th April.

Easter Hat Parade - Friday 11th April.

8. Foryd Fundraisers Association

Mrs Cartmel reported that there is no current update available for the FFA but this will be obtained for the next Parents' Forum meeting.

9. Any Other Business

Mrs Cartmel gave out information sheets regarding the Literacy & Numeracy Framework and explained what LNF is. Mrs Cartmel requested that parents take time to read the information and give feedback at the next Parents' Forum meeting together with ideas of how parents support their child at home.

Meeting closed at 3pm.