



PARENTS' FORUM

Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 30th January 2014, at 2.00pm

Present: Stephanie Cartmel, Rachel Jones, Stacey Fenton, Kerry Nairn, Anwen Maher, Emma Cannon, Phillippa Culshaw-Roberts, Nicky Ryles, Nicola Park, Lisa Jilge, Jenny Booth, Carmel Stojkowska, Jane Ralph.

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 and explained how beneficial the Parents' Forum meetings are. It is good to have the opportunity for constructive chats and to have parental input on items such as uniform, school activities etc.

2. Apologies: Mandy Findlay, Lorraine Lees.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 28th November 2013.

Minutes were agreed by Rachel Jones and seconded by Anwen Maher.

4. Matters Arising

None

5. School Packed Lunch and Health Eating Policy

Ysgol y Foryd encourages healthy lifestyles. A minority of pupils' packed lunches do not contain healthy food. It is school policy (printed in the School Prospectus etc.) that just one "treat" a day is allowed.

Mrs Cartmel expressed concern that before Christmas, some messages had been placed on social media sites stating that "*food had been taken away from a pupil*". Mrs Cartmel stressed that this would definitely not be the case. If a pupil is seen to have more than one treat, staff would put the extra treat in a bag with a generic note to explain why.

The school newsletter last week listed what would be "treats" and "non-treats". Fizzy drinks and sweets are not allowed.

The school had received an anonymous letter claiming that a pupil had not been allowed to eat fruit which had been in their lunch box. This matter had been discussed at a Governors' meeting and it was suggested that it was maybe a time issue.

Another person had expressed concern that their child had been doing work-outs because they were concerned about becoming over-weight. SC stressed that if a child had concerns about weight, this may come from many sources e.g. television, magazines etc but certainly not from school as we promote a balanced diet.

Mrs Cartmel stressed that she wished the parents concerned would come to talk to her about these issues.

Regarding school meals, parents are welcome to come in to see what is being served to pupils at lunchtime. All the children are aware that second helpings are available if they wish.

A discussion took place and all agreed that children do tend to “raid the cupboards” after school. At lunchtime children may want to chat with their friends or hurry to want to go out to play. However, Mrs Cartmel stressed that she is present in the Hall most lunchtimes, staff keep a good check on the children, however we can only *encourage* as we do not want to make children become anxious about eating.

A parent stressed it is about eating well to be healthy, not to be slim.

A parent enquired about fizzy water. Mrs Cartmel had to stress that no fizzy drinks are allowed, not even water.

6. Facebook Policy

We will be having a Facebook Policy in school. Mrs Cartmel wanted to inform members of the Parents’ Forum about this and at the next meeting a draft policy will be available. The policy will be put in place for everyone’s safety.

Mrs Cartmel hopes to organise a “Safety Awareness” talk for parents. This will highlight how parents can help their child to be safe when using the internet and social media.

SC informed members that three messages (posted on social media) had been brought to her attention. The messages were shown to our school Police Liaison Officer who stated that content of the messages were in fact slanderous and further action could be taken against the persons who had posted the messages. People forget that this is *social* media and many people can see what has been written.

7. Strategic Equality Plan / Butterflies Reading Group

Mrs Cartmel explained we must have this in place and explained how we ensure equality in school.

Many of our pupils do not have older people in their daily life, for example, grandparents work or may not live locally.

Mrs Maher informed members about the Butterflies Reading Group which is run in school. Older members of the community visit school to spend time reading with pupils.

There are school visitor protocols to adhere to and all must carry out a CRB check.

Members were asked to pass this on to anyone they know of who may be interested.

There is a group who meet at Morfa Leisure Centre who could be contacted regarding this project.

Mrs Cartmel added that children get so much out of this special “one to one” time and have formed good bonds with the visitors who currently come to school to read.

8. Estyn Inspection – Friday 14th February – Pupil’s Fun Day

Mrs Cartmel was able to say that we had a good outcome from the recent Estyn Inspection. A full report will be published on 14th February 2014 and all parents will be issued with a copy.

The staff and pupils were challenged during the Inspection, especially having the it at such a busy time of year before Christmas.

The Inspectors highlighted many strengths of the school and one in particular was the Parents’ Forum which was recognised as being sector leading. Mrs Cartmel thanked all members for their input.

To celebrate our achievement, we plan to hold a Pirate Fun Day on Friday 14th February. All members of the Parents' Forum are welcome to help – names given were Rachel, Jane, Kerry & Stacey.

The school lunch on that day will be a “spotty bag” with possibly fish fingers & chips.

Various activities are already planned for the day and members were asked for ideas also.

9. Special Coffee Shops

The coffee shops were discussed. It was agreed that when classes sing/perform at the Coffee Shops, this helps to bring in new parents. It was suggested that a sign “50p” donation should be displayed.

10. Parent Forum Representatives – sharing time

- Members were reminded that any agenda items should be passed to Mrs Hampson in the school office prior to the next meeting.
- A member expressed concern about discarded cigarette butts just outside the school gate. Mrs Cartmel will mention this problem on a school newsletter.
- Tuesday 11th March will be an Open Day for members of the Governing Body and Parents' Forum. Members are invited to visit school for the day, or part of a day, to observe school activities and stay for lunch also if they wish. Members were asked to please book a place if they wished to attend.
- Some parents continue to drive/park irresponsibly outside school. Mrs Cartmel explained that meetings have been held to discuss the matter and a number of ideas may be put in place e.g. more railings, gates, lollipop patrol crossing. Mrs Cartmel asked for car license plate numbers of repeat offenders to given to her and these will be printed on the school newsletter.

Next Meeting will be held on 27th March 2014.