

Minutes from Parents Forum held on Tuesday 13th June 2017

Attending :Staff: Mrs Neveu, Mrs Oldroyd, Mrs Perry, Miss Robinson and **Governors** Jim Burrows, Chris Davies and Sue Ross. 19 parents.

1 Mrs Neveu began the meeting by highlighting where the school is academically :

- The very good SIAMS assessment.
- The very positive HMI monitoring visit in July 2016.
- The impressive SATS results in 2016 at KS1 and KS2.
- The improvement in EYSF from 27% GLD to 55% in 2015 and then last year to 83%

The school may be classed as RI at the moment but members of our staff are supporting other Good schools in subjects like English and RE!

2 Little Deers_Pre School had a difficult Autumn term (low numbers) but was sustainable as just 3 days a week. Numbers increased in the Spring and, with some successful fund raising and the adjustment to the three days a week it meant that it broke even at the end of the financial year.

3 School Structure. Parents had been already informed of the new 3 class structure for Autumn 2017. Low numbers entering Reception (6) make a separate class no longer viable.

Class 1- Reception and Y1 Class 2 - Y2 and Y3 Class 3- Y4, Y5 and Y6

It was stressed that this was nothing new to the school and the staff would be able to set an appropriate curriculum for the class to suit every child and indeed had already started their planning.

Questions were asked by parents:

Q. The practicalities of EYFS and the Y1 curriculum in one class? A. The present Reception class, outdoor area and Bubble room will provide areas for small group work when necessary. Differentiation takes place in every classroom as each child is individually known by the teachers.

Q. Are the low numbers coming in a result of the RI grading? A. Possibly, although visiting prospective parents have not found that an issue, appreciating the vibrant environment of the school and the good attainment. A more likely reason is a low birth rate year.

Q. Will the staff situation be consistent through the year? A. The current class structure reflects a stable situation with experienced staff in place. Miss Robinson, a former student in the school, expressed her pleasure in her position now as teacher and her commitment to the school.

Q. A question was asked about TA support. A. TA support is provided in all classes, particularly in the mornings as this is when Maths and English is taught, allowing small group work to happen as required.

4 Mrs Neveu explained why contributions to trips and various activities were necessary. Over £1,000 of contributions were not given last year. Children are not denied inclusion in the activities when no payment is forthcoming but School needs to avoid a deficit and keep the budget healthy. Our pupils are fortunate to be able to experience many opportunities.

5 Facebook. Mrs Neveu spoke of how upsetting for the staff it was when parents made personal critical comments about them on social media. Recently there have been unpleasant, unprofessional and harmful discussions on Facebook. Every teacher works very long hours and very hard for the benefit of the children. It was reiterated that there are always opportunities for face to face comments with staff and Head and this should always be the correct method of addressing problems.

Communication will be made to all parents on this matter.

6 The staff was praised by governors for their commitment to the children and school and their diligence in helping pupils reach their full potential. It was stressed that the school community of teachers, pupils and parents all have a role to play together in creating a successful school

The meeting ended on a very positive note with several parents present thanking Mrs Neveu for an informative evening and for all her hard work for the school.