

## Parents' Forum 16 November 2011

### Discussion Bullets and Actions

#### **Present:**

Chair – Stuart Hornsby  
School Rep – Louise Gurney  
5 Parents  
2 Governors

#### **Low attendance**

Low attendance was discussed – parents attending willing to 'drum-up' support in the playground; opportunity to:

- 'Come along and listen'
- 'Put your point of view across'
- Coffee and cakes

Suggested we try posters and an article in the school newspaper

*Note: Mrs Gurney would prefer not to take teaching time for this forum; after school meeting suggested in Spring Term.*

#### **Actions:**

- Parents to encourage attendance **(All)**
- Mrs Gurney to arrange posters and article **(LG)**
- Table for Governors and PTA at next parents' evening **(SH / AT)**

#### **School books**

Books appear dated – Mrs Gurney reported that a library advisor had recently been in to review. Suggestions for new and low cost books:

- 'book people'?
- Local businesses donate books?

#### **Actions:**

- PTA to consider a letter to local businesses **(PTA)**

#### **Bikes and scooters**

Parents understand the issues of storage space for all school use. However, use of bikes and scooters promotes exercise and a healthy lifestyle, in line with school initiatives and other options should be considered. Security issues would be at people's own risk.

Possible solutions:

- Restricted to year 5 & 6?
- Rotated on a daily basis – year groups or class base?

#### **Action:**

Ms Trappitt to consider solutions and report back **(MT)**

## **School Sports**

Concern raised at pupils lack of awareness and understanding of basic sport rules and knowledge of how to participate. For example, at a recent tag rugby competitions, St Andrew's pupils were unaware you used a ball and were not sent with football events as part of their kit. It is felt we are sending pupils to local area events unprepared and therefore at a distinct disadvantage.

Children are not being prepared for events:

- No team practice
- They are nervous
- Not maximising learning in life skills
- Teaching methods in class are not relevant to reality of school teams participating in area events

What do other schools do to prepare?

Will F reiterated his offer to support teams / groups / classes etc with rules / game play.

Mrs Gurney highlighted curriculum areas, but unfortunately the school does not have a 'PE specialist'.

### **Actions:**

Governors to discuss at their next meeting **(SH)**

## **Governor's discussion point – School Dinners**

Outline finance figures shared – felt that message needs to be stronger to parents; 'use it or lose it' tone.

Discussed focus on 1 or 2 days and have a drive for more dinners – there was mixed opinion to this idea.

Query was raised as to why we don't source meals from a more local school.

An observation was made that the school is pushing for more healthy packed lunches (less crisps, choc biscuits etc) – this is very difficult when the school dinner desserts are 'nice', chocolate, sticky toffee etc

### **Action:**

Governors to discuss a stronger message to parents via a separate letter (not the newsletter) **(SH)**

## **Governor's discussion point – Fundraising**

Discussed potential of large fundraising event such as Hedingham School Walk. Parents happy to raise money for items such as books, but less happy for items considered to be part of school provision, e.g. boilers. It is recognised that it is how people are asked; all the money for both items (in this example) has to come from somewhere in the end.

PTA considering 'Yeldham's Got Talent'

**Questions for Mrs Trappitt / Governors**

- Location of notice board has previously been discussed – could it be made integral to the fence when it is renewed?
- On-going nit epidemic – could girls have hair tied back?
- Gifted and talented pupils – how are these identified and supported through school?

**Date of next forum:**

A Thursday after February at 3.15pm – 8 March?

**Action:**

Agree and publicise date **(MT, SH, LG)**