

Stedham Primary School

Parents' Forum

7 March 2016

Once a term the school community is invited to meet together to talk about how we can strengthen our school.

We keep a record of what we talked about: if you have any comments or suggestions please let us know, or come along to the next Forum session.

Topic discussed	Questions put forward and what we are going to do...
Uniform	<p><i>We have noticed that many of the older children are not wearing full uniform. What can we do about that?</i></p> <p>Mrs Dreckmann explained that although parents agree to send their children into school wearing uniform (when they sign the home-school agreement) it cannot be enforced because it is not a legal requirement to wear school uniform. She went on to explain that the majority of parents are very good about letting the school know if their child is out of uniform for a short while e.g. school shoes broken. When children are not in full uniform and the parents have not let us know, we allow a day's grace and then speak to the child; often it is they who are choosing to wear incorrect shoes for example and that quiet word is enough to stop it. If it continues then we approach the parents directly. A parent suggested that children in incorrect uniform should be sanctioned, like at MRC where children are put in detention. Mrs Dreckmann stated that she was not prepared to go down this route. She agreed to write directly to parents about uniform (after the Easter break) and would also undertake a uniform sweep to check and speak to children.</p> <p>The conversation then moved onto those who may not have full uniform for financial reasons. Members of the FOSS committee who were present suggested setting up a FOSS bursary that people could access; there were discussions about how people would access this or if the school should approach families. It was agreed that people would be made aware of the possibility of asking for financial support for uniform as part of the letter about uniform, and then the onus would be on people to ask via the school office.</p>
Survey	<p><i>What was the outcome of the Survey Monkey survey on parent forum and coffee morning?</i></p> <p>The return was very small (11) and most of the respondents are parents who already engage with one or both things. Consensus was that people still want forums and would be more likely to attend if there was a guest speaker or specific focus. Some parents suggested at the next forum we could have a Forest School evening to understand this better. Mrs Dreckmann agreed to talk to Mr Noble. A few respondents would like the coffee morning to be an afternoon – this is something we may be able to do now and again but often the hall is in use.</p> <p>It was suggested that for the next forum we produce a colourful poster to advertise the event rather than just putting in the newsletter and sending a text reminder.</p>
Muddy puddle	<p><i>Please can you do something about the muddy puddle on the corner of the entrance to school?</i></p> <p>Mrs Dreckmann pointed out that this is not part of her role; highways are responsible for maintaining the roads. Mrs Dreckmann agreed to talk to the parish council (which she did – the reply was 'anyone is free to report potholes to CDC through their website or on the phone').</p>

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Show and Tell	<p><i>Please can we stop Show and Tell in Owls? The children are using it as an excuse to try and bring in their toys.</i></p> <p>Mrs Dreckmann explained that Mrs Hines has been trying to rein in S&T a bit – children have been told that their items have to be topic related and Mrs Hines has tried to give children slots so they all get a fair turn. We discussed the value of S&T in terms of developing speaking and listening skills, asking questions and taking turns. Mrs Hines and Mrs Helas ultimately need to decide if they wish to continue with S&T in Owls – this is an operational decision and not something Mrs Dreckmann would impose but comments from tonight will be passed on!</p>
Class Structures	<p><i>What will the class structure be for September?</i></p> <p>Mrs Dreckmann explained that we have not started work on this as we do not know our intake yet. Once we know (mid April) we shall begin working on the class structure and staffing and decisions will be communicated to parents in June.</p>
Zig Zag Lines	<p><i>People are still parking on the yellow zig zag lines. Can we get out the Community Police Officer?</i></p> <p>As discussed before, this is a difficult situation. We have previously suggested parents remind each other when they see inconsiderate or dangerous parking because you all have just as much jurisdiction as the school. Sadly, this has caused issues with some parents being very rude to others when nicely challenged. Ultimately this is putting lives at risk and being complacent and thinking it won't happen is unacceptable.</p> <p>We will continue to remind people about parking and using the walking bus. One parent present said they would do some research to see if there were any other strategies we could employ.</p>
Letters home	<p><i>Can we have our letters emailed home?</i></p> <p>This idea split the room with some agreeing while others preferred a paper letter. We have thought of this before and perhaps this is a question that needs asking of the whole school community.</p>
Lunchtime Activities	<p><i>What has happened to music and movement at lunchtime?</i></p> <p>Mrs Dreckmann explained that as a goodwill gesture we had agreed to suspend this for a period of time at the request of our neighbour opposite who is trying to sell their house and was worried it might put buyers off. The house is now off the market at present and so we will be recommencing again, along with other activities now the top playground is in use again. The midday meals team will have a meeting after Easter to plan their activities.</p>
Summer Fete	<p><i>Please can the Foxes' children run some stalls at the summer fete?</i></p> <p>Mrs Dreckmann explained that some years the children don't want to do this as they prefer to be 'taking part' rather than running things. We can't enforce it but we will invite them to help again this year. It was suggested we could add an incentive; a prize from FOSS for the best fundraiser.</p>

Next Parents' Forum: Thursday 23rd June at 7pm
(this may change if Mr Noble agrees to run a Forest School evening)