

Woodstone Community Primary School

Minutes of the Parent Forum of Woodstone Community Primary School 16th January 2017

PRESENT:

Parents: T Tidmarsh (Yrs 4 & 6), A Bloxam (Y5), L Wilson (Yrs1 & 6), E Clark (Y2)
Staff: Mr P Mullins (PM), Mrs G Clark, Miss G Clement (9:20am)
Visitors: Raksha Mistry – Food For Life (9:50am)

APOLOGIES: Mr S Wright, Mrs S Fellows

WELCOME:

Members were welcomed to the meeting.

PROTOCOL:

PM provided the agreed Terms of Reference and reiterated that the purpose of the Parent Forum is to provide positive communication between parents and school in order to enhance the children's learning experiences at Woodstone.

THE WOODSTONE WAY:

PM explained 'The Woodstone Way', its importance to help children learn the skills to help them succeed in school and how they are used in the classroom to reinforce lessons.

Bravery – try something new to improve their confidence.

Focus – listen well, follow instructions first time and have good concentration.

Good Thinker – solve problems and tasks with children using skills/knowledge they already have.

Co-operation – good discussion skills and listens to other ideas and tries them.

Perseverance – keeps trying and thinking of ways to do tasks to get there in the end.

On Fire – have great enthusiasm for an activity and puts in lots of effort to help others to achieve.

Going the Extra Mile – Don't settle for good but strives to be excellent; puts in extra time at home or in the classroom.

Golden Book Assembly certificates have been changed to reflect these attributes.

FOREST SCHOOLS:

Miss Clement joined the meeting to explain the introduction of Forest Schools at Woodstone. We have acquired the land behind the playing field from Leicestershire County Council on a long term lease which will be fenced in the coming weeks to make the site secure. Miss Clement has visited Forest Schools in our local area and is qualified to Level 3 which enables her to work with children and staff at Woodstone. When she qualifies at Level 4 she will be able to train external staff using our facilities.

Currently, the Reception children take part in Forest School every Friday morning. Our plan is for Years 1, 3 and 5 to take part in regular termly Forest School sessions. These sessions will enable children to develop their team working and problem solving skills by making

dens, swings and generally exploring the woodland area. All children will be given equal opportunities to engage in Forest School experiences by contributing their own skills appropriately giving them a feeling of self-worth.

Miss Clement spoke about the six principles of Forest School Education and the benefits to the children.

1. Forest School is a long term process of frequent or regular sessions in a woodland environment that are planned, adapted and observed to enhance future sessions.
2. Forest School takes place in the woodland environment so that children can explore and discover to support the development of their relationship with the natural world.
3. Forest School promotes holistic development supporting resilience, confidence, independence and creativity.
4. Forest School offers children the opportunity to take supported risks appropriate to the environment and themselves, which in turn builds on motivation, positive attitudes and interests. The children will take part in structured tool talks and eventually help to manage the woodland with the skills they learn.
5. Forest Schools are run by qualified practitioners.
6. Forest Schools use learner-centred processes such as play and choice to create a community for developing and learning. Reflective practice is fostered to recognise and understand children's achievements, developments and to plan for future sessions.

HOLIDAYS:

We had 70 responses to the holiday consultation with more than 50% of those opting for the Ashby/Ibstock model:

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| • 2017/2018 October Half Term | 49 (Ashby/Ibstock) | 21 (LA) |
| • 2018/2019 October Half Term | 52 (Ashby/Ibstock) | 17 (LA) |
| • 2018/2019 Easter Holidays | 49 (Ashby/Ibstock) | 21 (LA) |

The holiday dates previously sent home to parents and that are on the website are the holidays that Woodstone will adopt. Holidays across the area will undoubtedly become more fragmented in the future as more multi academy trusts form.

WEBSITE:

We are currently updating the website to make it more use friendly by renaming some of the tabs to enable you to find things more easily.

FOOD FOR LIFE:

Raksha Mistry from Food For Life joined the meeting at 9:50am to talk about the Food For Life programme and what we do at Woodstone. The programme is about teaching children where food comes from and how it gets to their plates as well as nutritionally balanced meals. Woodstone currently has the Silver Food For Life Award and we have gained this partly through the work we do with the children with our gardening clubs and cooking lessons/clubs. To achieve the Gold Award we need a greater uptake of school meals. The

general feeling was that the menu choices are good but the dinners cooked on site are not appetising.

A suggestion to improve this was for the cook to engage more with the children about healthy food choices and where it comes from, eg. free range eggs, local produce.

The kitchen staff are employed by School Food Support and their hours are allocated according to the previous week's meal numbers. Therefore, they are limited with the time they have and morale is sometimes low. Increased school meal numbers would prove more cost effective and benefit staff morale.

AOB:

E Clark raised the following parental queries:

- PE kits in Reception class are going missing. EC suggested that the children get changed in groups or we adopt a buddy system when children are getting changed.
- There have been a number of parents concerned about how muddy children get during the winter. PM said that the children do not play on the field in the winter and that the areas where they get dirty are on the grassy areas around the paths/steps. PM suggested that having artificial grass in these areas would help and that it could possibly be a project for the PTA to think about.
- It was noted that a child was unable to take part in a sporting activity due to ill health and another child took their place but did not have their PE kit. This child was allowed to wear the ill child's PE kit. Concern was raised about this being unhygienic.
- Parents are asking for feedback from spelling tests – children learn their spellings, take the test but parents do not know the results.
- Harvest Festival – suggestion for a ticket system to be adopted, similar to the Christmas productions. Although it's limited to 1 ticket per family, it was noted that in some cases several family members attended.
- Head injuries/bumps – some children are going home without a head injury/bump slip. All head injuries/bumps should be recorded on an accident slip.

The meeting Closed at 10:15am

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

TBA