

**MINUTES FROM
PARENTS FORUM
Tuesday 7th February, 2023
6-7pm**

ATTENDEES: 19 Parents/Carers,
Rachel Davies, Headteacher and Safeguarding Leader,
Joanna Lovatt, Chair and Parent Support Adviser

1. WELCOME to all attendees and apologies from Victoria Rodrigues (Business and Operations Manager).
2. FEEDBACK FROM THE LAST MEETING, which covered two main areas.
Sugar Policy within the School. Three main points have been enforced
 - Any sugary treats brought in to school by other parents/carers or visitors should be taken home so that the parents/carers can make the decision if/when they can be eaten;
 - No sugar based treats to be allowed as treats for individuals rewards, such as Star of the Week;
 - No sugar based rewards for groups or to be used as part of the curriculum unless parents/carers have been made aware beforehand
 - As far as any further changes, there will be a consultation amongst the families at school. However, due to the current pressures on the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) regarding budgets and other immediate pressures, it is not a priority for now but is being kept in mind. The SLT have very good experience on running consultations and surveys. Meanwhile, please let the SLT know if those three policies are being enforced and thank you in advance for any feedback.

AKTIVA. Both Rachel Davies and Victoria Rodrigues have met with a Senior Director. As the issue of After School Clubs was raised with a request for an update, this will be dealt with more fully in the next section of this meeting.

No-one has volunteered to write up the minutes for the Parents Forum.

3. AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS
 - One of the parents requested an update, concerned with the quality of the clubs run after school (and not the wrap around care).
 - Victoria Rodrigues (who has had no further feedback since the last forum from families) and Rachel Davies had a very honest meeting with a senior director of Aktiva. Feedback from the Parents Forum was highlighted, covering Price/Value for Money; Quality of products/services; Product Description; Communication.
 - Aktiva have said that they will look at their training levels and the resources provided by their staff. Meanwhile, they are formalising their communications lines to ensure a better service.
 - Please can all Parents/Carers ensure that any communications with Aktiva are copied through to Victoria Rodrigues (VR) so that she can see the whole community's views.
 - In terms of looking at alternatives, it is a very large piece of work to look at any other provider and how they might impact the school. To date, VR has been exploring with other schools in and around the area, to see what their solutions how and how successful they view these solutions. When a route forward has been decided upon, the school will go back to the Parents/Carers.
 - One parent confirmed that communications have noticeably improved. Another confirmed this, having recently asked if the Chess during Breakfast Club could be reinstated. Another parent said that their son loves the activities but hears negative

feedback from other parents about the Art Club. Finally, another parent said their son really liked the new Basketball Coach.

4. CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH was the final topic raised, with the parent asking what the school's strategy was longer term.
- This was a useful topic to bring up given that this week is the school's focus on Mental Health Week.
 - "Zones of Regulation" was introduced at the end of the last academic year and has now been embedded in all year groups. It has started with some useful feedback from the Speech and Language Therapist highlighting her techniques with individual children, the school requesting more details and recognising that this was a very useful idea to use throughout the school population.
 - Within the School Development Strategy, VR has had training as a Mental Health Leader. This has led to a number of staff from across the age range of children to form a working party with a 3 year strategy. That group have now met 3 times and agreed their terms of reference; their aims and how to quantify their success.
 - ⊖ Staff have begun training sessions, to take on various tools within the relevant age groups.
 - We use the Jigsaw scheme of work for PSHE which covers mental health and regulating/recognising emotions
 - Staff have also actively sought the pupils input and used this. Hence the use of greater Outdoor Learning initiatives, which came as a direct result of the children's feedback from the School Council.
 - A parent raised the issue of anxiety, one of the most common forms of mental health issues. They felt it could be a tricky subject for parents to handle and would like help in having tools to identify what the triggers are; understanding what is behind it etc.
 - RD explained how the "Zones of Regulation" tool used within school has helped each child to identify how they feel and take control of their own outcomes by anticipating those triggers and working to manage their emotions. The tools available will be enhanced and change as they continue their journey through school and beyond.
 - When those issues are identified as being beyond the everyday tools, the school could refer them to the relevant professionals and outside agencies.
 - The school have also identified that to help the children, they also needed to ensure that staff as well as Parents/Carers also needed to be addressed. Initiatives have been and will continue to be developed to include these groups as well as the children. For example, Joanna Lovatt is using and will continue to use, the PSA Newsletter as well as Parent Workshops to deliver tools directly and those offered by external agencies.
5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS
- A parent asked what would happen to WORLD BOOK DAY if there was a strike by teaching staff. RD said that information would come out on Friday 10th February to keep parents/carers informed. There would be some flexibility as the school had a focus on it being BOOK WEEK and not just World Book Day.
 - Two parents asked if the Parents Forum could be held at a later time, as the time 6-7pm meant that they still had children up and around and it impacted their family meal. The school are happy to re-arrange.

NEXT PARENTS FORUM TO BE ARRANGED