

**MINUTES OF WESTFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT FORUM MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 6th DECEMBER 2017 AT 7.00PM**

PRESENT:

Suzanne Stace (Headteacher)
Hannah Bolton – Year R / Year 3
Rebecca Harte - Year 1
Sabrina Lazenby –Year 2

Emma James - Chair
Rebecca Mackenzie – Year 6 Nevelson
Denise Arnold – Office Secretary

Apologies from Paula Grossman, Jo Harding, Holly Green, Sadie Clarke

		Action
1.	Welcome	
2.	Minutes of the Last Meeting The minutes circulated on 3 rd May 2017 were agreed.	
3.	<p>Action Points from last Parent Forum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home Learning Policy reviewed and Parent Workshop Delivered with positive feedback • Maths Workshop and Maths Wizards introduced <p>Parent Forum members all felt that the workshops provided were beneficial and would welcome them being run annually.</p> <p>Question was raised as to whether homework could be accessed via website and if when a child is absent, copy of homework can be provided?</p> <p>Mrs Stace suggested that parents speak to the class teacher when their child is absent to obtain copies of homework as was concerned about the impact on staff with regards to putting on website – teaching staff will be able to provide a copy upon child's return.</p>	
4.	<p><u>Feedback on New Initiatives – Milo and Forest Schools</u></p> <p>Parents were asked for their feedback on our new school initiatives: introduction of a school dog and Forest Schools. The feedback gained from the parents and Parent Forum Reps was as follows:</p> <p><u>School Dog – Milo</u></p> <p>Reception</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nothing negative to say, love Milo coming on the Daily Mile with them • Question asked: how much do the children see Milo and when? <p>Mrs Stace advised that Milo is still only a puppy and not yet ready to be in classes as need to make sure he's not over excited or stimulated whilst ensuring he's happy and safe. Milo has gone into assembly and joins the children on the Daily Mile and we have lunchtime walking club for the KS2 children.</p> <p>Year 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Idea and concept is great • Question asked - was having a puppy the best option or should we have considered an older dog or one already trained? <p>Mrs Stace confirmed that a lot of research was done prior to getting Milo and all options considered and with guidance from an experienced dog trainer, it was felt a puppy would be best as it would have no history or anxiety around schools/children and could be introduced from the outset to the school.</p> <p>Year 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All very positive about Milo – feel that the children have learnt a lot from having a dog and about being responsible, think it's very forward thinking of the school particularly with the idea of Milo being a therapeutic dog and is a great opportunity. 	

- Parents have asked for more feedback about what interaction the children have with Milo.

Mrs Stace

Mrs Stace agreed that we would put a regular update in Westfield News about Milo along with updates on the website.

Year 3

- Feedback all positive about Milo, feel it has made children more responsible around other dogs and they know how to deal with animals with respect and responsibility.
- Parent asked if teachers are distracted by having Milo or if there has been an impact on teaching? Also, has Milo started listening to children read yet?
- Parents would welcome a long term plan with regard to Milo and his involvement and interaction with the children at school

Mrs Stace acknowledged that obviously having Milo was new to us all and has impacted on her the most. Mrs Dix is also a key member of staff who helps support with Milo and different members of staff run the dog walking club at lunchtimes. Our Learning Mentor, Mrs Trent, who provides 1 to 1 support has had children read to Milo.

Mrs Stace also confirmed that we have had the Dogs Trust come in and provide training and given guidance to the children on how to look after Milo and interact safely around dogs, knowing how to read their behaviour to ensure they are safe. We have seen children who were previously scared of dogs become more confident and volunteer to do dog walking.

Some of the quotes received from parents/children about Milo were:

“a great idea”

“Milo is epic”

“Really enjoys walking / running with Milo”

“Milo makes me very happy”

“School dog is a big hit with my two. They love being rewarded with taking Milo for a walk.”

“I like it when Milo comes on our daily mile with us, he is fast and he makes it more fun!”

Forest Schools

Year 1

- General feeling was that the parents don't really know what the children are doing and if they've actually had a class? Is it every other week and are the classes split?

Year 2

- Feel it's a valuable lesson and children learning to respect environment
- Fully support it although aware that not all children like being outside

Year 3

- Children enthusiastic about it and think it's good for team work but not sure what they get from it?
- Children excited to be outside learning
- How is it beneficial to the older children?
- A better understanding of what the children do would be welcome

Mrs Stace advised that information was shared in the November edition of Westfield News about what the children had been doing so far this term but we will look at sharing with parents the information from the Forest School Workshop held in September as well as providing a termly Forest School Newsletter

Mrs Stace
and Mrs
Lambert

	<p>Some of the quotes received from parents/children about Forest Schools were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Having helped out at Forest School, I can safely say the children in Year 3 love it. It is so nice to see them enjoying the outdoors, it amazes me every time at how excited they become to be out learning, playing and interacting in the fresh air.” • “I am really pleased with forest School. My child loves it and is keen to talk about it. He also really likes Mrs Lambert.” • “I’m all for different learning environments and I think it’s good for them to take time out from the normal curriculum whilst still learning.” • “Whole heartedly approve” • “Absolutely loves it” <p>Mrs Stace thanked everyone for their feedback.</p>	
5.	<p>Positive Feedback</p> <p>Feedback from Year 3 parent to say “everyone loved the Stone Age Day and the link with Forest Schools”</p> <p>“Really enjoyed the Y2 Trip to Mountfitchet Castle”</p> <p>“Weekly Reception Class Newsletter really appreciated as it helps parents to know what the children are learning and have been doing each week”</p> <p>“Postcards sent home have had a positive response”</p>	
6.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Football – District Trials</p> <p>A parent asked the question as to why Westfield was not entered into the District Trials?</p> <p>Mrs Stace confirmed that she was aware that we were now taking part in the Dacorum League but would need to speak to Mrs Ayles with regard to the District Trials as she wasn’t aware that the school had received information regarding this .</p> <p>After School Clubs</p> <p>Although parents are happy with the after-school sports clubs provided some parents have asked if more school clubs could be offered to Year 1&2 children and also more non-sporting clubs?</p> <p>Mrs Stace said that it was felt the younger children find the school day tiring and benefit from a more relaxing end to the day/time spent with family. In addition, we have limited space and the hall/outside/classrooms are already being utilised each day for clubs/training/meetings etc. We also have to consider the staffing of these clubs and the school staff already have regular meetings after school and work late so have little capacity to run clubs. The school will continue to review the clubs offered on an ongoing basis and consider outside providers (reputable companies) if suitable. This academic year, we have already introduced Basketball and Tennis. Parent Forum Reps suggested that possibly a club could be run by parents but we have found in the past that although this is appreciated, they would potentially need teacher support to run them.</p> <p>Daily Mile</p> <p>Question was raised about whether the Daily Mile has now become more a weekly occurrence rather than daily?</p> <p>Mrs Stace acknowledged that it may not always be daily as need to fit it into the timetable and at certain times of the year we are dictated by the weather plus any events taking place i.e. rehearsals for productions but we endeavour to fit it in. We have seen how much the children’s running ability has improved since doing it and we will be introducing a new initiative shortly of running a marathon.</p>	Mrs Stace and Mrs Ayles
7.	<p>Date for Next Meeting</p> <p>Date for next meeting to be arranged</p>	