

# **Marsh School Parents Forum Meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2011**

We started off this meeting by briefly going over the Minutes from the previous meeting in June.

## **Asian Parents Forum**

### ***Homework club***

This will be started on Tuesdays – a letter will be coming out soon.

### ***Speech Therapy***

There will be a facility once per school year for the school to purchase an integrated service dealing with speech therapy and cognitive therapy. This will be purchased for the summer term.

## **Website/Newsletters**

The updating of the website is still being done. A new prospectus is being designed which will be smaller than the existing one as a lot of content can now be found on the website. The prospectus will also be more accessible for all parents and less wordy. Mrs Morrisson is also going to start writing a blog on the website which parents can comment on as well.

## **Smoking**

Mrs Morrisson said that she was going to get a polite notice made up to remind parents not to smoke outside any of the school gates. This will be done shortly.

## **Parenting Books**

The books have been sorted for parents to borrow. There will be a computer desk installed in the hall with a computer for parents' use and the books will be stored in this area as well.

## **New Matters**

### **Get Together**

The get together for parents/families had now been arranged and was the International Food Evening. People attending were to bring a plate of food in and then everyone could share food, buffet style. There would be refreshments on sale by the PTA to

raise funds for the school. Mrs Morrisson is to have a word with Miss Rammell to see if some musical entertainment could be arranged for the evening as well.

There was praise for the Fathers Day event – where dads and grandfathers came to school to read and play with their children. Hopefully this will be a regular event. There was also the suggestion that the school could do something for Grandparents Day and perhaps a Pampering Session for mums. The exercise class had been well received although perhaps a slightly less demanding session would be a good idea next time with a more experienced exercise class teacher.

### **Parking/Road Issues**

We have had a meeting with the County Council (details in the last school newsletter). It was felt that the meeting had been positive and the Council were going to keep us updated with the proposals for the mini roundabout and the outcome of our other suggestions.

There was an idea that all children could be given “Walking Passports” for walking to school (even if only from the car-park at the Retail Park). They would collect stickers every day and work up to Bronze, Silver and Gold awards.

### **School Gates**

- (a) Part of the bottom black fence onto the playground is missing. This meant that when children were out on the playground playing with small balls there had been incidents where balls were rolling out of the playground onto the road which had caused cars to have to brake or slow down a couple of times. Mrs Morrisson advised that she would ask Mr Browne to have a look at it.
- (b) The black gate at the front of the school appears to be showing signs of wear and tear. Mrs Morrisson is going to look it to having it replaced with the same style as the nursery gate, with the additional safety hinge at the top as well. Parents are reminded to close gates on entry and exit to school.

### **School Trip**

The trip to Legoland on 7<sup>th</sup> October is on the same date as Jeans for Genes Day and there had been some concern that children would be going on a school trip in their own clothes. However Mrs Morrisson confirmed that, whilst children could wear jeans, they would still have to wear uniform tops and sweatshirts/cardigans.

### **Photographs/DVDs**

Unfortunately no photos had been taken of the last Sports Day. It is hoped that a parent or Governor might make themselves available to be the School Photographer on event days so that parents can have an opportunity to purchase photos from events if they so wish.

There was hope that another informal photography session like the one that was held on a Saturday last term would take place again. It would be good if this could be arranged before Christmas as it might help with Christmas present ideas for families!

Unfortunately there was no DVD available from the Christmas performance last year; despite there being plans to have recorded the shows. Mrs Morrisson was going to make sure that it was done this year and that staff were given the time afterwards to edit and make enough copies for sale.

### **Other issues**

There is to be a nursery section on the website where specific information could be placed so nursery parents knew where to look. Nursery would now have their own part of the main school newsletter. This meant that all the information about nursery and the main school would appear on one newsletter only and that would cut down on paper and encourage the strong links between nursery and the main school.

There was a discussion about arrangements for children's coats and procedures for start and end of sessions. Mrs. Morrisson will discuss these issues with the class teacher concerned.

### **Snow Information**

The country is apparently going to start getting snow as early as next month, with reports that the South-East is going to face some really heavy snow falls. To this end, not all parents (especially new parents to the school) may be aware of the school closure procedure. It was felt that this information would appear on each newsletter once the weather seems to be turning for the worse. The school is very good at using Parentmail to get text messages out to everyone and there is the Snow Closure Information list on the County Council website.

### **Beechview**

It appears that there may be a problem in December with Beechview's Christmas show in that it does not start until 2.30pm and that would mean that parents who have children at both schools would have a problem. Mrs Morrisson was to speak to the Headteacher of Beechview and see if they could change the time of the show to start a bit earlier to allow parents time to watch the show and get back to Marsh School to pick up children from there. Alternatively Mrs Morrisson stated that she would be happy to keep children in school for an extra hour or so to enable parents to go and see the show at Beechview and then come back and pick up their children afterwards.

### **Meeting Dates**

The next Asian Parents Forum is to be on 6<sup>th</sup> October at 9.00am.  
The next Parents Forum is to be on 3<sup>rd</sup> November at 9.00am.

This brought the meeting to a close.