

# Parent Forum Minutes

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December 9.15am

## Agenda:

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Code of Conduct & minutes from last meeting
3. **Agenda Topic 1: Follow up from last session**
4. **Agenda Topic 2: Fundraising** – Thoughts for moving forward – ideas for events this year
5. Suggestion Box & close

Mrs Lennon welcomed everyone and directed them to the minutes from the last meeting. She shared where these would be kept on the website so parents could find them if unavailable to attend a meeting.

## **2. Actions from last meeting**

- a) Mrs Lennon followed up with the tech provider and the issues that have been raised have been discovered in multiple schools – apparently the newer the phone, the more “glitchy” it can be. The tech provider has encouraged us to report these incidences. Parents should report to school and we can then submit a ticket to the company so they can log the volume of issues we are currently facing. We have spoken to SIMS regarding 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> contact preferences and are awaiting feedback from them on this issue. The calendar service is something that is not available on this system, but will be included in the spec when tendering for a new company.
- b) We have looked at School Ping and MCass as alternative providers. Mrs Davies has given notice and we will look into these further before the contract expires in 8 months.
- c) Teachers feel also that Marvellous Me isn’t particularly user friendly and aware it is inconsistent. We are currently trialling Class Dojo in Nursery and feel that this will meet many of the needs of our school: consistent 2-way communication, budget savings as it is a free resource, user friendly etc. If the trial goes well, the next steps will be to roll it out to some of the parents in the parent forum/a class.

Parents want to ensure we are mindful of a careful roll out and ensure it isn’t “tech overload” for parents to adopt all at once. Mrs Lennon spoke about a staggered approach with Dojo being trialled and rolled out this year and the more central system would be rolled out later in the year

Parents raised that it was an issue that the digital system didn’t have a thorough understanding of the glitches we are seeing and in the next 10 months look at what our service is providing and whether they are in breach of their SLA/if we can manage this better before the contract ends.

Parents also raised the issue around Dojo being a “introductory social network” and that we needed to ensure some safeguarding around children becoming fixated upon points/weaponizing these. We discussed how we needed to be mindful of this and use the trial to take feedback from parents on whether the “points” was something that we wanted moving

forward & if not whether we could disable this functionality/whether we could do some parental education around the use of it.

### **3. Fundraising**

Mrs Lennon asked whether, following the last parent forum, any parents had managed to get any feedback/volunteers who may be interested in being part of the fundraising .

Mrs Beale shared ideas of using the forest school/fruit trees which could be turned into jams/chutneys

A parent of a Reception child is a fundraising manager and keen to support the school's fundraising efforts.

Parents feel we should make a core offer that is given annually – then we may have some additionally opportunities offered each year but regardless the core is there.

Make very clear what fundraising efforts are for – transparent targets and aims

Ensure new people are encouraged to join in, new parents are encouraged to sign up, different times, virtual meetings etc so we can reach and engage with as many parents and families as possible.

Look at opportunities to get the children engaged with the fundraising opportunities too.

Consider regular giving – some kind of raffle e.g. parents contribute £1/month to be part of a raffle – invite local business' to donate a prize each month and also pay for the promotion

**ACTION:** Mrs Lennon to draft a letter to parents asking for a core team/core offer of fundraising. Send this to parent forum to approve and then send to whole school in January.

Maybe evening events that are child specific could encourage attendance from parents

### **4. AOB/Suggestion boxes**

**CLOSE**