

**Parent Voice**  
**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2017**  
**The Barn**

1. **Welcome and introductions**
2. **Minutes of the last meeting and action points**

There were no attendees at the meeting of Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December, so the minutes from the November meeting (30.11.16) were reviewed.

- **Forest Schools**

Mr McIntosh and Mr McTaggart had spoken about Forest schools with Mrs Welch and it has been proceeding well at the Infant School. We will continue to discuss this in the remainder of the school year to see if it will be viable for the Junior School next year.

- **Homework letter for Year 3**

This had been added to the pack of information that new Year 3 parents will receive at the end of the Summer term in preparation for September 2017.

- **Emailing of letters, etc.**

Mr McIntosh had been in contact with eSchools and they had looked into the problems described but could not identify any issues when they looked into the account in question. They are happy to receive help requests from parents via their support desk at <http://supportdesk.eschools.co.uk/support/home>

- **Year 6 playtime arrangements this week (w/c 28.11.16)**

The particular arrangements put in place in the week following the serious playground incident had been reviewed and amended, with a letter sent out to all Year 6 parents on 5<sup>th</sup> December (the third letter or email to them concerning the incident). The arrangements until the end of the Autumn term had been as follows:

- A senior teacher to be on duty outside throughout lunchtime to support the midday staff
- Y6 to be reintegrated back into the main playground space
- Playground games, football and games in the 'Arena' to resume for all year groups
- Key individuals to continue to have their breaks in different parts of the school
- Y6 classes to continue to eat their lunch at different times throughout the lunchtime break
- Y6 classrooms will continue to be locked at lunchtime
- The Barn will continue to be used as a packed lunch venue for Y6 only

Discussions with Year 6 pupils, in groups and as a whole cohort, had taken place. A 5-week programme aimed at helping Year 6 pupils manage and resolve challenging

situations would be starting from the Spring term and continuing on a rolling basis to eventually cover all pupils.

- **Ofsted update**

Mr McIntosh pointed towards the end of Autumn term Governors' Newsletter, which summarised their monitoring of the school's effectiveness and also the external monitoring in the last term.

**3. Injuries at school**

A parent queried the process of informing parents about injuries sustained at school while under the supervision of other providers (e.g. PPA providers, clubs, etc). Mr McIntosh confirmed that those such as head injuries should go home with a written note so that parents can be vigilant regarding possible ongoing or escalating consequences – this is regardless of the circumstances in which the injury took place. Mr McIntosh would ask that everyone involved in supervising pupils (in lessons and elsewhere) were sure about the school's procedures about this.

**4. Website calendar**

There appeared to be some instances where school events were not published on the school calendar. Mr McIntosh would check with the person responsible for keeping this up to date that they had access to the full internal school calendar. A suggestion was made that events such as the recent Home Learning Open Afternoon could be publicised on Twitter, as well as the usual vehicles such as the newsletter and letters/emails home.

**5. Academy status**

The school is in discussions and exchange of information with some other local schools about what converting to academy status as part of a multi-academy trust might entail and if this was the right route for the school to take at this time. This process is in the hands of the Governing Body and no commitments taking us into this status have been made at this time. Parents would be consulted if the governors believed that the outcome of the discussions and exchange of information proved to be in favour of academisation. The Infant school is part of this process and our joint priority regarding any possible change of status is to approach this in a united manner.

**6. Equipment for playtime**

A parent commented that her child was sometimes bored on the playground and questioned the provision of resources and equipment available. Mr McIntosh outlined the various new resources bought, the use of the Multi-Use Games Area, the use of pupil Play Leaders to encourage and co-ordinate games, the presence of pupil Play Buddies who help involve and accompany individuals who find it difficult to integrate on the playground, and the use of the new rota system in place since the Autumn term. New equipment is always useful and if the budget permitted, the school council could meet to suggest further resources to be bought for playtimes. The school would also be participating in the Sainsbury's 'Active Kids' scheme which is now open, whereby parents can collect vouchers with their shopping, send them into school, and at a later date, these can be converted into equipment for the playground. This scheme is open for parents to collect and donate vouchers until 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

**7. Ofsted parent survey**

With the oncoming Ofsted inspection in mind, Mr McIntosh was interested to gather opinions on how to encourage positive responses to be entered onto the Ofsted ParentView survey that is open for all of the school's parents to use. This is an important part of the evidence considered by inspectors and parents have a part to play in securing an improved judgement. This led to some discussion about ideas of reaching out more to parents, including improving communication, preparing and distributing a calendar of events for the year ahead, sharing more about the school's journey towards the next Ofsted inspection and giving further opportunities for parents to attend open lessons such as the forthcoming Maths lessons. Mr McIntosh would relay these suggestions to the school's leadership team for consideration.

**8. Date and time of next meeting**

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February at 9am (tea/coffee from 8.45am) in the Barn.

It was requested that the car park could be made available for parents for future evening meetings, which Mr McIntosh will action for the March meeting.

Future meetings will be as follows:

- Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March at 8pm
- Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April at 2.15pm