

**Thorndown Primary School - Parent Forum Minutes**  
**February 7<sup>th</sup> 2019**

**Present:** Heather Wood (Chair), Vicci Godbold (Head teacher), Matt Sweeney (Teacher/Mantle of the Expert Lead), Rob Jagger (Governor), Sam Poole, Caroline Skinner, Pawel Kurkiewicz, Richard Boughey, Sarah Anthony, Ses Lukaszewska, Sam Thompson, Josefina White

**Apologies:** Jenny Cowens,

1. **Welcome**
2. **Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**

**Parents Evening format** – the results from the parent survey will be collated, including feedback on the full day Parent Consultations. Future arrangements will be determined by the majority view on whether the full day consultation arrangements were a success. Please complete the survey if you have not already done so.

**Term Dates** – Following comments at the October Forum, Ms Godbold confirmed that term dates for next year follow the Ivo dates as much as possible rather than the County Council dates. This is to make it easier for families with children at both schools. **Please keep a look out for term dates.**

3. **Mantle of the Expert**

What is it?

Mantle of the Expert (MOE) aims to capture children's imagination and make learning fun and meaningful. It does this by bringing a dramatic approach

How does it work?

The method works by having the children take on the role of an expert team—within a fictional context – to perform specific tasks that involve problem solving

It is an enquiry based approach and the teacher takes on a number of roles, to add tension and guide the learning. Children are aware throughout that they are participating in a fictional context.

Mr Sweeney is the expert for the school and has taken part in three residential weekend sessions to understand how to incorporate this approach into the children's learning and to support colleagues in this approach.

How does it work in practice?

An example of how the approach has been used in Year 4 is in relation to the topic of Egypt. Children have been part of an archaeological dig team sent to explore a tomb. They have had to plan their trip, working out which supplies

and equipment they will need as well as calculating how much water and food each person will need. In addition they have had to work out how to decipher the hieroglyphics and write some of their own.

This approach is not used in every lesson, it is incorporated into the lesson plan by each class teacher when it fits which could be weekly or bi weekly. It should be seen as one of the teaching tools in the overall toolbox of teaching techniques.

How do we know it works?

The key aspects of the National Curriculum are covered and the teacher will direct the learning to ensure key aspects of the topic are explored.

Anecdotally, the feedback is that there is a real 'buzz' in the classroom when this approach is used and that there is an improved quality of imagination and thought in the written work that children are producing.

#### **4. Date of next meeting and topic**

**DATE: Thursday May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 7.30 pm** in Chameleon Classroom

**TOPIC: Thorndown Highlights (improvements and changes made over the previous years in response to OFSTED and other good practice).**

**A REMINDER** – that the Forum is a two-way opportunity for parents to raise issues/concerns with representatives from the school *as well as* the school seeking views/opinions from parents on matters relating to the advertised topic. If parents are unable to attend the forum they may miss the opportunity to contribute in this way. The Forum takes place on different nights of the week to try and maximize attendance and is held in the early evening to allow working parents the opportunity to attend.

**All parents are members of the parent forum and are welcome to attend the meetings. If you cannot attend but wish to raise an issue you can email [parentforum@thorndown.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:parentforum@thorndown.cambs.sch.uk) post a note in the suggestion box in the lobby or raise it with your class/year representative.**