

Thorndown Primary School - Parent Forum Minutes
May 23rd 2019

Present: Heather Wood (Chair), Vicci Godbold (Head teacher), Claire Gerrard (Deputy) Rob Jagger (Governor), Sam Poole, Sarah Anthony, Kate Taylor

Apologies: Jenny Cowens, Pawel Kurkiewicz

1. **Welcome**
2. **Matters Arising from Previous Minutes** – none
3. **Thorndown Highlights**

It is exactly two years since the OFSTED inspection and these are the following changes and achievements:

- Gained Arts Mark (silver) for the standard of teaching in arts subjects (including music and drama). Artsmark is the creative quality standard for schools, accredited by the Arts Council England. They provided a clear framework for teachers to plan, develop and evaluate arts, culture and creativity across the curriculum.
- Has trained a teacher to deliver Forest School learning. (Becoming a Forest School means that children are provided regular opportunities to develop confidence through hands on learning experiences in a woodland or natural environment). This provision is targeted towards Pre-school and Reception due to the limited space available.
- Built on existing good maths work and developed greater fluency and mastery. Mrs Gerrard is part of the Cambridge Maths hub and has developed the way in which Maths is taught for Early Years children to improve their long term understanding. Other schools come to see how Thorndown teaches and this is starting to cascade through the county.
- Development and embedding of the Growth Mindset philosophy (see March 2017 minutes for more information).
- Introduction of Philosophy for children (see May 2017 minutes for more information).
- Teaching through Mantle of the Expert (see February 2019 minutes for more information on this topic).
- Significantly improved outcomes for Year 1 children by integrating more learning through play, particularly in the early parts of Year 1 with a gradual transition to less play based learning as the year progresses.
- Took over management and running of Pre-School and After school Kids Club with successful results.
- Implemented the new school logo.

What's next?

- Tweak some aspects of the curriculum
- Work with Bedford college to respond to the fact that there are not enough teachers in Cambridge – currently developing some training placements to support people who want to train and work locally.
- A greater focus is needed on spelling and so the Spelling Shed will be introduced.

4. Date of next meeting and topic

DATE: Thursday 10th October, 7.15 pm (ground floor classroom)

TOPIC: How parents/carers can contribute to the school community and support their child's education.

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 post a note in the suggestion box in the lobby or raise it with your class/year representative.