

**Thorndown Primary School - Parent Forum Minutes**  
**November 27<sup>th</sup> 2017**

**Present:** Heather Wood (Chair), Vicci Godbold (Head teacher), Rob Jagers (Governor), Jenny Cowens (Secretary), Nina Rust, Sam Poole, Louise Keeley, Sam Thompson, Pawel Kurkiewicz, Joselina White, Kasia Lukaszewska

**Apologies:**

**1. Welcome and introductions for new parents.**

**2. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes**

Nothing noted in the meeting or via Parents Forum email or suggestion box.

**3. Main topic: Inclusion**

Miss Godbold suggested focusing on diversity and general information about the way in which the school tries to be inclusive as SENCO had been covered in previous meetings.

Firstly, Miss Godbold was keen to emphasise that all pupils were treated as individuals. How each pupil progresses and the areas in which they require further development are closely monitored.

Each pupil is targeted at the start of the year as to where they should be by the end. This is decided by the last and current teacher and is reviewed every 5/6 weeks. If all is well and on target then it is left as is until the next review, if not then a suitable intervention will be decided and actioned.

To further ensure all pupils are included and given the appropriate access to develop within the school various data is reviewed at the end of term. This will include data regarding:

i. **Gender** - in particular ratios within the years to ensure a suitable mix of topics

ii. **Pupil Premium Register**

a.) Forever 6 – these pupils receive an extra £1320 pa, between 85 & 95 pupils each year

b.) Looked After Children (LAC) receive £1900 pa

c.) Service Children receive £300 pa, currently 15 pupils.

These additional grants must be used to fund Teaching assistants, after school clubs, and any additional 121 needs. For example Mrs Harris has been employed as a Pastoral Family & Pupil Care Worker in the school and music and play therapy sessions have been introduced with great success.

The school always seeks to achieve the maximum benefit for the whole school from these additional funds not just PP pupils. It only needs one PP pupil in the group/intervention, other spaces can then be allocated across the school to none PP students as is appropriate.

iii. English as an Additional Language (EAL) – currently there are 17 languages spoken across the homes of Thorndown pupils. At present

33% of the pre-school children and 25% in the Foundation stage are EAL pupils. When joining the school mid-year/term, particularly at the higher years these pupils are offered an initial assessment of their English skills by an outside agency CREDS who will also work with them for the first few days. There is also help for parents with limited English. The school can use CREDS and interpreters provided by the Local Authority and has excellent knowledge of the language skills amongst the parents that they can and do call upon to facilitate discussions; Parents Evening for example. Mrs Shepherd also runs an early morning Reading Support Group for the children.

- iv. SENCO
- v. Black & Minority Ethnicity BME which would also include children from Traveller families.
- vi. Personal Trauma
- vii. Capable of Greater Depth – these children will always be set challenges to which they can apply their knowledge and ‘Dive Deeper’ into the curriculum.

There is constant checking across all the above groups and the Governors are always challenging the School to provide all pupils with suitable access to different ways to ensure they can develop at school. However, with more TAs being reassigned to children with education plans and funding always being insufficient the school have not been able to run as many intervention groups this year.

This makes Quality First Teaching (QFT) paramount and teachers at Thorndown are official observed three times a year, are ‘dropped in on’ every two weeks and receive feedback. They will have their own ‘interventions’ if necessary and are offered additional support and training to make sure they meet the required standard. Specialist coaches are brought in to the school to assist, especially around PE, Language and Art.

Data reviews have a proven track record of improved results/outcomes.

#### 4. **AOB**

The question was raised as to whether the Buddy system was still active in the school. Miss Godbold assured us it was. Year 6 pupils still helped in Reception and there were playground buddies to help children that may look lonely or left out. Years 4&5 are also reading buddies for Years 1&2.

One parent expressed concern that not all menu options were available for their child at dinner time i.e. some had run out. Miss Godbold was very surprised at this as Thorndown is now a beacon school for the catering company, which meant other schools visited to see how it should be done! Miss Godbold promised to review as it should be that ‘last person in is offered the same as first’.

Foundation parents asked whether those children having packed lunches could sit with those having hot dinners rather than be separated. This was so

they could sit with friends and perhaps encourage different meal choices. Miss Godbold said this shouldn't be a problem and would talk to those concerned.

Sex education was briefly discussed and parents were pointed towards the school website and the relevant policy within the Appendix. Parents can opt out if they wish.

#### 5. Date of next meeting and topic

**DATE: Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at 7.15pm** in Dragonfly Classroom

**TOPIC: OUR LEARNING ENTITLEMENT – the development of the Curriculum.**

**Year Representatives** (a point of contact for parents who wish to raise or discuss a matter at the forum).

<b>Reception</b>	Louise Keeley
<b>Year 1</b>	<i>Heather Wood (provisional)</i>
<b>Year 2</b>	Pawel Kurkiewicz
<b>Year 3</b>	Sam Poole
<b>Year 4</b>	Pawel Kurkiewicz
<b>Year 5</b>	<i>Heather Wood (provisional)</i>
<b>Year 6</b>	Clare Lorman-Hall

**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.**