

## Minutes of Pixmore Parent Forum Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2015

<b>Present:</b>	Tracy Coates	- Parent
	Mrs. R. Mann	- Parent
	Mrs. Heath	- Parent
	Mrs. Mann	- Parent
	Mrs. Welbourn	- Parent
	Mrs. Winchester	- Parent
	Mrs. Maric	- Parent
	Mrs. Battah	- Grand parent
	Ruth Coleman	- Letchworth Senior Family Support Worker
	Kath West	- Governor
	Anne-Marie Kennedy	- Family Support Worker
	Sue Willans	- SENCo

**Apologies:** None

### Agenda:

- Introductions – Anne-Marie Kennedy
- The new curriculum, age related expectations and implications for children with SEND
- Introducing Ruth Coleman – new Family Support Worker
- AOB

### The New Curriculum and Age Related Expectations – implications for children with SEND

There was a quick re-cap of information relating to the new Code of Practice for SEND shared at previous meetings. Sue noted that the SEN Information Report is due for review as it was put together with the help of parents last year. She asked those present to consider their experiences over the past year and to look at the report to note whether the information given reflects their experiences. Sue will contact parents after half term to obtain their views and consult over possible revisions. One parent commented that a friend, who does not live locally, had passed positive comments about the school local offer.

Sue explained in some detail about how children are identified as SEND and explained the fluid nature of the 'assess, plan, do, review' process whereby progress for all children is monitored every half term and provision put in place to ensure that good progress is made. At Pixmore, children may be involved in two cycles of intervention, equivalent to one term, before they may be considered for inclusion on the SEN register. It is at this point that parents will be consulted and a plan put in place with the child at the centre at all times. If a child continues to make insufficient progress, external support may be sought and consideration given to applying for an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) which identifies a child's needs in their entirety.

It was noted that the new curriculum and assessment processes, based on age-related expectations (ARE) may worry parents of children with SEND. At Pixmore, children are assessed and monitored

according to **stage rather than age**, as appropriate, and good progress was demonstrated according to progress being made in an upwards direction (see presentation slides) regardless of starting point. Sue asked parents to note that the graph could apply to any child in the school, whether working below or above ARE; the important thing is that they continue to make good progress, which is monitored and reviewed every half term and SMART targets set which reflect high, but realistic expectations for all children.

It was also noted that all staff are being 'up-skilled' to ensure that their knowledge and skills are in line with the new curriculum expectations.

One parent commented that she thinks it is good that expectations are now higher and feels that children should be being 'stretched'. She wonders this could impact negatively on children higher up the school as they will not have had the benefit of the higher expectations. It was noted that this will be the case for all children of this age as the curriculum is new for all.

### **Letchworth Family Support Worker – Ruth Coleman**

Ruth introduced herself and explained her role. She asked parents what they would like to see happening as a result of her input. One parent asked about cycling proficiency, including basic bike skills, outside of holiday times. Ruth will look into this. Another parent suggested that we invite ADDvance into school to talk about the support they offer. Ruth offered to organise this; Sue suggested that it might be easier if she does this as she can set a date which fits in with the school calendar and then let Ruth know. This was agreed.

She handed out leaflets about courses and half term activities and spent some time talking to parents individually.

### **Parking along Rushby Mead:**

Views were sought about the new scheme to place parking monster/angel tickets under windscreens. Parents are pleased that the school is being pro-active, although one commented that we still need to be encouraging families to walk/cycle etc. rather than drive. Sue said that school will be teaching road safety over the next term to all children. Parents will be asked for permission for children to be actively involved in placing tickets and the local council have been consulted to ensure that no rules/laws are being broken. It was noted that one parent has offered to print the tickets of us, which is fantastic and will save a lot of money.

There was a lively discussion about the safety of pedestrians walking to school as the path is very narrow and the hedge very thick. Parents asked whether the hedge could be cut back to widen to path. Kath noted this, saying that school own the hedge so could cut it back if done correctly. She will talk to the Governor's Resources Committee to find out how much this will cost and source funding for the work.

Another parent expressed concern about the number of parents who stay around the school gates and the beginning and end of each day making it difficult to get into school; access onto the

playground area is also difficult because there is only a single narrow gate which creates a bottle-neck. Sue noted that this is all being looked at with a view to making improvements, but said that it will take time. However, parents can send individual letters to the council to complain about the lack of traffic wardens monitoring parking outside the school and also the lack of safe places to cross. One parent suggested that school could produce a standard letter, which parents could have individual copies to sign and return to the council.

**Action:** SW to produce standard letter, KW to discuss pruning hedge with resources committee

### **AOB – Head Lice!**

One parent expressed her concern that her daughter is being regularly infected with head lice, in spite of treating her. She asked what school does about this, especially as she doesn't see head lice stickers in school diaries anymore. This was discussed by the group. Sue commented that stickers do still go out when head lice are noticed but said that this is an on-going problem in all schools.

One parent asked if posters reminding parents to check their children's hair could be out up outside classroom windows. This was agreed.

**Action:** SW to produce poster for classroom windows and discuss with AE the possibility of being more pro-active in encouraging parents to check their children's hair regularly and treat as necessary.

**Next Parent Forum:** Parents from feeder infant schools to be invited