

Home Farm Primary School – Parent Forum – Thursday 10th May 2018

Present – Mr Potter; Mrs Hayton; Mrs Jackson; Mrs Mansfield; Mrs Berry; Mrs Reeve; Mrs Turvil; Mrs Carlin.

Apologies – Mrs Newson, Mrs Khan

Update on building works

1. Mr Potter welcomed parents to the meeting. He provided an update on the building project to construct new classrooms. Parents had already been informed through the school newsletter that the Headteacher and the Governing Body had taken a decision to close the school to pupils on 19th and 20th July 2018.
2. There was a significant programme of refurbishment work being undertaken in the existing building and there would be no access to staff from Monday 23rd July. The additional closure days were needed to provide time for classrooms and other spaces to be cleared so that work could begin promptly. The programme was extensive and the timetable very challenging, so it was important for work to begin on time so that the school can reopen on time on 4th September. Mr Potter explained that there had not been much feedback from parents on the decision, and he had received only one complaint.
3. In relation to the new classrooms, the glazing was currently being installed, and this would be followed by the cladding and panelling. Work had already begun on the electrics and under floor heating inside the building. Some of the children had taken part in a topping-out ceremony.

After-school club

4. Mr Potter explained that the school had recently consulted parents on levels of interest in an after-school club. The consultation had since been extended to parents of the new September 2018 intake. In response to the consultation, there had been a reasonable level of interest with lots of positive feedback. Parents asked whether the school had considered an external provider, and Mr Potter explained that he preferred the option of a club being run by the school as it was easier to ensure high quality provision. A decision would be taken as early as possible.

Issues raised by parents

5. A parent representative had asked a question by email about the split of the current Year 3 cohort into two classes next year, and asked when the children would find out. Mr Potter explained that all children would be informed of their class arrangements for the following year in July. He had already explained the process to Year 3 children. Parents commented that children did not seem concerned about the process.
6. A parent representative had asked by email whether there would be any shade created on the field during hot weather and when the sunshine shelter would be re-installed. Mr Potter explained that the school had been putting up gazebos when the weather was very hot with assistance from the HFSA. The sunshine shelter would not be useable again until September.
7. Parents asked about plans for Sports Day later this term. Mr Potter explained that he had some concerns about Sports Day this year due to the availability of space on the field as the building works

were impacting on the amount of useable space. Mr Potter confirmed that he would discuss this further with staff and communicate plans as soon as possible.

8. Parents asked whether the school had any information about the resurfacing of Shelley Road and whether it was finished or not. Mr Potter confirmed the school did not have much information but understood that there was further re-surfacing to be done. Mr Potter explained that he had discussed with Essex County Council and the Governors the possibility of creating a pedestrian entrance to the school at the Burns Avenue gate in order to help address congestion on Shelley Road. This would need to be supervised by a member of staff in the same way that the Shelley Road gate was supervised. Parents thought that there was merit in this idea. Further consideration of this was ongoing.
9. Parents asked whether there would be scope for parents to see the new garden at some stage. The garden had been moved through the hard work of Mr Setford and his volunteers, together with financial support from the HFSA. Mr Potter agreed that this could be done.

Date of next meeting

10. The next meeting was taking place on Friday 8th June at 2:15pm – all parents and carers were welcome to attend.