Diptford School – Minutes of School Committee meeting, 4 December 2018 (Approved at meeting of 29 January 2019)

Present: Roger Knight (chair), Lizzie Lethbridge (Head), Natalie Siddons, Claire Moorman, Helen Price, Louise Lethbridge, Laura Bell, Rev’d David Sayle.

1. Apologies were received from Jo Palmer and Claire Moorman, who had provided feedback and questions from the Little Dippers and Kingfishers parent groups in advance. Roger welcomed Carol to her first meeting. Carol knows the school and its children well through her work in the kitchen and is well connected within the Diptford village community; she has kindly agreed to join the committee to provide stronger linkage to the community.

2. The minutes of the previous meeting of 18 October were approved. Roger, on behalf of all parents, thanked David and Lizzie, and all of the school staff, for finding an alternative timing for the school carol concert. Other matters arising would be covered by the agenda.

Head of School Report

3. Lizzie’s Head of School report is attached at the end of these minutes. This prompted discussion in a number of areas, including in particular:

a) Traffic management and car parking – issues include speeding, parents parking on double yellow lines, extra congestion when there are funerals or other events at the church or the Hall, parents’ parking habits (including and blocking visibility at junction of Church Park Close). A walking bus is neither viable nor safe, there not being a suitable space and with no pavements. David advised that Exeter Diocese is unlikely to allow use of the block of land beyond Church Park Close; it is not available to the church to use.

b) Maintenance of the outdoor spaces and assets – Lizzie acknowledges that maintenance of, for example, the yurt, the composting toilet and Paddington’s Patch is the responsibility of the school and, in principle, falls within the school budget. There is however a problem of finding sufficient teacher time to lead on this, with lunchtime clubs and playground duties and after school activities. Keeping PP tidy, and re-instituting a gardening club, in particular would require time and strong leadership of the children; Carol and Roger agreed to consider whether anybody from the community might be prepared to provide some input. Lizzie is to arrange for a contractor to inspect the Yurt, in the light of the possible impact of recent adverse weather, and to advise on steps required

Other matters raised by parents

4. Some parents have reported that, whilst the increased opportunities to participate in sports activities is very welcome, their children have considered that they don’t actually get much active time at the off-site sport events – there has lots of waiting time and lots of substitution (to ensure everyone does receive an opportunity to experience the event). Lizzie will feedback to sports organisers.

Community matters

5. A Parish Hall meeting is planned for later in the month – will discuss the deep clean – and Lizzie is to meet before the end of term with representatives of the Parish Hall committee to discuss the renewal of the arrangements for the School’s use of the Hall.

6. Feedback from the community is that access to the Hall is limited by school use – is this perception or actual? The School generally has the Hall from 11am- 2pm daily.

7. Questions were raised about the standard of cleaning – any specific concerns should be advised to Helen or Carole.

8. Mosaic project dates to be set to invite the community into the School sometime between Feb half-term and Easter.

FODS Update

9. The recent Diptford Arms events raised welcome general funds; there was a pleasing turnout from the village (and good feedback), although the attendance from school families was disappointing.

10. The next scheduled events are the Christmas Crafts day and Lunch on 19 Dec and a children’s disco on 1 February.

11. Laura noted that FODS relies currently on a small pool of parent volunteers and regretfully may not be able to continue to support some events unless new families get involved. It has been great to see some Little Dippers parents coming forward to help at the Christmas Crafts day.

Next meetings

12. It was agreed that the next meetings should be targeted for around the last week of January and the first week of March. Laura will undertake polls to identify availabiities. [Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday 29 January.]

………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

**School Committee Meeting – 3.12.18**

**Head’s report – Lizzie Lethbridge**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Pupil Numbers per year group** | |  |  | | --- | --- | |  | Spring term 2019 | | Nursery | 10 +4 in January | | Reception | 8 | | Year 1 | 10 | | Year 2 | 13 | | Year 3 | 8 | | Year 4 | 2 | | Year 5 | 9 | | Year 6 | 11 | | Total: | 61+10 = 71  (75 in Jan) |   After a busy open day, we are positive about numbers for September. |
| **MAT Update** | Inclusion and Improvement Hub:  The IIH forms part of our Trust. It is a virtual hub which is made up of a team of specialists led by Rebecca Humphries.  The Inclusion Hub offers a package of support for primary schools for all children, including children with social and emotional needs. We present a strong network where experience and expertise is shared between professionals working with children, and we offer supportive sessions for children who need help regulating their emotions.  The Inclusion Hub is based at Bearnes Primary School, Newton Abbot, and supports all primary schools – children and staff - within The Link.  The vision is to create meaningful connections with schools and partners to deliver tailored support for children, teachers, and schools; empowering all to secure strategies ensuring improved emotional well-being and resilience.  This is a powerful development and significant in our offer of a personalised approach. |
| **Results** | Results this year with National comparison:  2018   |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | 2017-18 | | School | National | | Early Learning Goals | | 80% | 71% | | Phonics | | 92% | 83% | | KS1 | Reading | 100% | 75% | | Writing | 78% | 70% | | Maths | 89% | 76% | | KS2 | Reading | 100% | 75% | | Writing | 75% | 78% | | Maths | 83% | 76% | | Combined | 75% | 64% |   These are now published on our website. |
| **Mosaic project** | I’m really excited about a mosaic project we will be starting later this year, with support from the bid for the Den area. This will be a community opportunity and enable the wider community to be involved in school. |
| **Wrap around care** | New Breakfast club and Early Bird drop off has started and is picking up. It’s an important offer and we are lucky to have Charmaine who is very flexible. |
| **Events, trips, visits** | * Harvest Service * Tag rugby competition * EYFS Diwali Day * Y1/2 Dippers trip to Bygones * Year 4/5 badminton * Children in Need day * Bring a broom day! * Fire Safety talks for Year 2 and 5 * KS1 invasion games * Year 5/6 WW2 day * Y1/2 Gymnastics competition * Tree festival at Harberton church   Coming up:   * Christmas Candle light service * Christmas jumper day * Little Dippers trip to the Residential home and Santa train * FODS Christmas crafts and Christmas lunch |
| **Communication** | Hopefully parents are reading the newsletter. Every available date is on the newsletter and we aim to plan as far ahead as feasibly possible. We also aim not to change dates/details although this occasionally happens. |
| **Christian Distinctiveness and Ethos update** | There is a new SIAMS schedule – Harbertonford will be one of the first schools to go through SIAMS under this new framework and Diptford will be the year after, so we will be in a very good position when it arrives.  The new framework is underpinned by Church of England’s Vision for Education, 2016, which can be found on their website:  <https://www.churchofengland.org/more/education-and-schools/vision-education>  It is an important document for Church schools - a “fresh articulation of the Church of England's vision for education; a vision that is deeply Christian, with the promise by Jesus of 'life in all its fullness' at its heart. This is worked out theologically and educationally through four basic elements: wisdom, hope, community, and dignity.”  We will be starting to review our mission statement and vision in the new year, following our values review last year, and will have continued support from Landscove Primary who lead the SIAMS and C of E hub. |
| **Road and parking** | LL is still to to contact the diocese re: land. Not yet actioned.  Breakfast club isn’t busy enough to help; Early Bird Drop off is not being used but will continue to be offered.  The school council have started discussing the issue and will be building a project around it. |
| **Parent support** | Thank you to the parents who helped on our Open Day – your support is much appreciated and really helped to set the ethos of the school.  We had some really positive feedback but need to keep getting the message out there. Community involvement was very welcome.  Please encourage each other to bring any issues into school – the teachers are always around at the end of the day and more than happy to discuss issues. |
| **Yurt and outdoor areas.** | We are awaiting a quote for work to take place.  Ownership is not the issue – it is an important part of Diptford’s USP. However, capacity is. Can we organise a parent body to support the outdoor areas and compost toilet? |