

Parent Forum – 14th November 2022

In attendance: Steve Snelson, Rachel Watts, Susie Murtagh, Caitlin Teague, Kate Murray, Jo Schiernecker, Suzanne Coulson, Ellie Renshaw, Katherine Spiers, Suzanne Britton, Nicola Hall, John Gregory, Charlotte Delisle-Barrow

1) Intros and welcome

Caitlin Teague, Chair, welcome everyone to the meeting and invited all present to introduce themselves

2) Leadership update

Rachel Watts gave an update on the current arrangements at school

- Steve was continuing as Executive Head, dividing his time 50/50 between RHF and Blaby Stokes
- Rachael's role continues as Head of School
- Jessica Hall and Polly Press (formerly Seymour) had recently been appointed as Assistant Head as a job share

3) School events with parent invitations

A discussion was had around whether parents would be interested in once again being invited to school for reward assemblies and other events – the resounding opinion was 'yes' but that parents would appreciate these being at the start or end of the school day and to be given plenty of notice, perhaps by setting dates in advance and advising at the start of the year. Popular events include postcard assemblies, curriculum workshops and the opportunity to see children's work, particularly with parents evenings having moved online.

4) Updates to attendance guidance from the Dept of Education

Steve explained the new guidance school has been given regarding absences:

- 95% is 'good'
- 85-95% will be monitored by school and parents may be contacted
- 85% and under is considered of 'serious concern'

Steve reassured that all absences are put into context and existing illness/health needs etc are always considered. It was also confirmed that a 5 day absence would trigger a £60 fine from the Local Authority (again, medical circumstances, with evidence, would be exempt).

Parents agreed that school should simply share the policy with parents and make them all aware.

5) Issues raised by parents

Caitlin Teague reiterated the request by the Friends of Red Hill Field for volunteers at events and on committees to ensure that events could go ahead and members of the group reminded us that we could also donate to the Friends via using Amazon Smile to send a proportion of your spends to the school, or with items via their wishlist. Sponsorship was also discussed, both in terms of the Friends sponsoring things for school and also events having outside sponsorship via parents.

Caitlin also raised the issue of the outside of school gates being extremely busy with the Fareshare table and parents bringing dogs to drop off and pick up and requested that the school send a reminder to parents to be mindful of blocking exits and/or keeping dogs away from gates and children (and adults!) who may be nervous of them.

A parent sent a request via Caitlin to be able to 'overpay' on items, such as the pantomime, in order to donate to the school or other children who might not be able to meet costs of events. This would be looked into on Parentpay.

Reward postcards were discussed as some parents feel they can sometimes be distributed somewhat 'unfairly', with some children well on their way to badges by October half term and others waiting often until Easter to even achieve 1 card. Rachael and Steve were receptive to parents' feelings on we all agreed that postcards should be a valued reward so not simply handed out for no reason to be 'fair' but equally, it may be that individual teachers may be applying the awards differently to one another. School advised they would ensure all staff were operating in a similar way and assured that house points can and should be also used as rewards.

A parent asked if school would be offering a holiday club and a greater choice of activity clubs for F/S children – Steve confirmed that often it is lack of space and/or staff to offer either but would look again at them.

Parents requested updated lists of TAs and staff at breakfast and after school clubs as often they are unfamiliar, particularly with a turnover of students.

6) Any other business

There was no other business. Caitlin thanked everyone for their time and the next meeting would be confirmed next term