

### 17.03.17 Whytemead Forum Meeting Notes

Present: G.Ward, C.Mavin, K.Fewings, S.Baker, S.Chiryk, L.Garner, S.Hughes, N.Wood, D.Flint, L.Bezants

- **Scooter security area at front of school (Quick Win) - Action:** GW to ask Mr Grant to look into this.  
Looked into it but dimensions of the area weren't right. However, looking into secure bike storage anyway so this should tick both boxes. Will keep us updated.
- **Gardening Club (Group Project) - Action:** Re-arrange Big Dig. Find two parents and two teachers to 'own' the project. Simplify!  
Nicki Wood kindly volunteered to take on the coordination of the project although all members of the forum (and many other parents/carers too) are happy to do the hands-on work that needs doing. NW will suggest new dates to do the 'Big Dig' after Easter. CM mentioned there could be some funding via Pupil Premium.
- **Art at Whytemead (Long-term) - Action:** GW to ask Bramber for feedback about Creative Waves project; CM to ask West Park; CM to look into displaying artwork in local shops  
West Park gave positive feedback but it was very expensive. Whytemead has some very talented and artistic teachers and in the past has put on an Art Week. CM agreed we could possibly do this again in the summer term after tests have finished. CM to mention to Miss Gough (who has a Fine Arts degree). KF said she would ask for other parent/carer involvement via the FB group, for example.
- **Communication - Action:** GW/CM said the school would increase its efforts to communicate dates across all channels as soon as they know them.  
School are now releasing dates as soon as they have them; for example, the inset days for 2017/18 have already been released.

Discussed use of Facebook group and agreed it should have a function for parents/carers to communicate with each other (e.g. over lost jumpers!) as well as the main event/fundraising purpose. Any issues that arise on the group can be discussed at the Forum meetings.

School is trying to tweet whenever possible but would like more followers! (45 so far)

- **Headteacher's Awards** - Can parents/carers find out more about why the award was given? Could it be a simple certificate instead of a sticker (which gets lost!)?  
The answer was **yes!** Great idea. But will keep the sticker too.
- **[The Great Project from Safe in Sussex](#)** (for Yrs 5 and 6 children) - Can we have this at Whytemead (it's free)? 'The GREAT Project is a fun, interactive and educational healthy relationship and domestic abuse awareness programme for year five and six pupils. It is

*designed to complement key stage 2 Personal, Social and Emotional Curriculum, covering topics such as healthy relationships, defining domestic abuse, reasons and excuses and respecting each other. The GREAT Project aims to raise awareness about domestic abuse, improve access to support services. Educate to change attitudes to prevent future domestic abuse incidents. The programme is completely age appropriate.'*  
The answer was **yes!** Hope that it will start in September 2017.

- **Forum under PTA umbrella** - *Managing communication and activities*  
All were happy that the Forum should be the parent/carer communication with school arm of the PTA with the other arm being fundraising and events.
- **How are PTA funds spent?**  
Agreed that it could be made clearer what funds were being raised for. For example, the aim of the Summer Fair might be to raise funds for more ipads. Needs to be something that can be achieved for the current children (rather than a project that may come to fruition in 10 years' time!).
- **World Book Day** - *should the children be asked to dress up?*  
Plan to continue dress-up for World Book Day but for those who aren't keen it can be very low key. May alternate - book characters one year, pjs and favourite bedtime book the following year.
- **Twinning** - *could Whytemead be twinned with another school?*  
Have looked into this before and it fizzled out. A lot going on at the moment so keep this one in mind but no action for now. *KF: Could we see if there is anything we could do through the Twinning Association?* <http://worthingtwinningassociation.org/index.html>
- **Mindfulness** - *could Whytemead apply to be part of the trial?*  
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/children-eight-mindfulness-lessons-relaxation-mental-health-school-education-a7625296.html>  
Again, another great project but do the Safe in Sussex project first. Then could move onto this.
- **Maths Workshop** - *will there be another maths workshop for parents/carers to understand the methods used at school*  
Yes there will be another. Planning it at the moment with Mr Pascoe.
- **Snacks** - *do all children get healthy snacks at some point in the day?*  
YR, Y1 and Y2 have access to fruit/veg in the morning; Y3 and up don't. Lunch is at 12 so not too long to wait. Difficult to take in snacks because of peanut issues and other allergies. Consider whether older children should be allowed to bring fruit in. No action on this for now.