

ROCKMOUNT PRIMARY SCHOOL
MINUTES OF THE PARENT/CARER FORUM MEETING 29th November 2024 at 9am

Attendees:

Parent/Carers: Jessica (Co-Chair / Crystal), Clare (Opal), Alex (Emerald), Siobhan (Ruby), Carolina (Emerald), Becky (Garnet), Rachi (Onyx), Olivia (Topaz), Sally (Sapphire), Kate (Zircon), Helen (Moonstone), Eloise (Moonstone)

School: Helen (Headteacher), Jennie (Business Manager), Amber (Deputy Headteacher)

Item	
	<p><u>Introduction</u> Jessica introduced herself as the new Co-Chair of the parent forum and asked all attendees to do the same so that all can become familiar with each other.</p>
1.	<p><u>Communications including new website, apps and policy</u> Helen advised that herself and Amber had been in the process of launching the school's new website that was due to go live on 29th November. Amber advised that the developer, Juniper Education, are widely used amongst schools and that the new website is more user friendly for mobile phone access. The school will have more control over making amendments without the need for additional costs being incurred. Staff can also make changes which will be authorised by a member of SLT. Amber explained that photographers came to school one morning to take new up to date photos as part of the process and these have been used for the website.</p> <p>A new Super App is going to be launched in January 2025 which we hope will resolve some of the communication issues that parents are having.</p> <p><i>Question: Will there be a way to prioritise emails as urgent? Can the app include both parents to receive messages?</i></p> <p>Amber also advised about a new system called CYPAD which will be used for parents to choose lunches via an app for nursery children and children with special dietary requirements. This may be rolled out to all parents in due course.</p> <p>Helen spoke about communication between parents and teachers and that Teaching Assistants are in the playground in the mornings so can relay messages to the teachers via them. Alternatively, the teachers are all in the playground at the end of the day and are available to speak to. Emails can be sent to the office who aim to respond within 48 hours or a phone call can be made to the office if an urgent response is required.</p> <p>Action: Amber to liaise with Juniper Education regarding ways to identify priority or action needed messages.</p>
2.	<p><u>Trips and financing of trips</u> Helen referred to the curriculum maps on the school website for parents to view as this includes details of upcoming trips for all year groups with the exception of Nursery children. A new enrichment map is to be produced for parents to see trips from Reception through to Year 6. Year 2 will always have a seaside trip as some children may not have had this opportunity</p>

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	<p>previously. Helen has been in contact with head of performing arts at The Norwood School for an Oracy project for the Year 4 students.</p> <p>The cost of trips was discussed as the school budgets are unable to sustain the lower level of contributions received from parent/carer contributions. Additional fundraising was discussed and it has been noted that sponsored events have been a good way to raise funds for the school in the past. Parents/carers would like to have an idea of costs of the trips to have a better understanding of how much to contribute. Possibility to use the SUMUP system to pay from trips rather than ParentPay as some parents simply forget to pay. The payment items will be kept open for longer in ParentPay to facilitate late payment.</p> <p>Action: To look at ways that parents can pay scales for the costs of trips and a possible upfront payment for the year.</p>
3.	<p><u>Feeder Schools for Kingsdale</u> One of the Deputy Heads looked into the option of becoming a feeder school to Kingsdale Foundation a year ago. They had been advised that the criteria cannot have children from a school that has an outstanding grade from an Ofsted inspection. Staff recognise that the secondary application process can be difficult for some families and staff are always available to assist. An information letter is sent to Year 5 families in the summer term and a repeat offer of support will be made at the beginning of the Year 6 term in September.</p>
4.	<p><u>Street Safety / awareness</u> Gang culture was discussed as this is a concern for all parents/carers. There are to be workshops for Year 6 students including a visit from TFL to talk about street safety and a theatre group to raise awareness through rap music. Community police come to school to talk to years 5 and 6 about criminal responsibility.</p>
5.	<p><u>Playground facilities and hygiene</u> Parents are concerned about the foxes who continue to use the sand pits as a toilet. Helen advised that the school site manager clears the grounds each morning at the start of the day to remove anything left overnight. He is in the process of looking at how to cover the areas by building permanent covers for the sand pits.</p> <p>The new gym equipment has been well received and is used regularly by the children. Some of the playground markings have been left to fade where they have been interrupted by new equipment. New game markings will be planned from the New budget for the summer term.</p> <p>Helen asked for suggestions or ideas from parents for further equipment or facilities.</p>
	<p>NEXT MEETINGS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 24th January 2025 ● 14th March 2025 ● 2nd May 2025 ● 27th June 2025 <p>All meetings will start at 9am and convene in the After School Club room.</p>