

FOPS Minutes Wed 18th January 2017

Present: Debbie Chadwick, Tim Burgess, Jill Morgan, Nicci Holliday, Susanne Walsh, Sarah Bird, Charlotte Houghton, Anna Earl, Marketa Chester, Ozzie Minoo, Helen Day, Sarah Bell, Simone Chidlow.

Apologies: Idit Yehezkely, Louisa Curl, Laura Sabharwal, Marisa Ciesla, Carrie Masson, Serena Kow, Melanie Beskin, Clare Brunet, Sheena Preston

1) Welcome- minutes 9th Nov 2016 approved.

2) Finances and expenditure requests:

Presentation from Debbie Chadwick (Deputy Head) and Tim Burgess (Governor – Play)

Debbie Chadwick and Tim Burgess (Governor - Play) attended the meeting to outline HTPD's latest plans on developing the Early Years Setting at Pewley. [FOPS have already committed to spending £6-8,000 per year for a period of three years.]

HTPD have linked up with OPAL (specialists in outdoor play and learning) and have commissioned a report for improving the rear outside areas at Pewley – including the Rainbow room. Debbie and Tim told us about OPAL's recent site visit, led by Tom Burgess (OPAL Mentor) and also attended by Sheena Preston and Francis Clixby. Together Debbie and Tim outlined how improving facilities can aid play and effective learning, help to manage behaviour, instil confidence etc and shared ideas on how this can be achieved.

Ideas include an expansive, deep sandpit for the top bank behind the reception classes, willow tunnels, log stepping stones, Sound tubes that link existing areas, buried tubes for sliding vehicles down, loose play items (such as planks, pallets etc), additional dens and seating. There was also the idea of a Mud kitchen! It was explained that linking these areas together is vital in creating a heightened sense of journey and discovery for the children.

Debbie and Tim said that as well as looking for funds they also need help from FOPS in sourcing people power, they would need Parents with DIY skills and donated materials and would like FOPS to organise a Groundforce Day. This could be led by Tom Burgess – OPAL mentor – who would be on hand to give advice/expertise.

FOPS thoughts were:

- 1) Access for pupils - How accessible would the new areas be to pupils?
Assume that the Rainbow room would be mainly for Reception children (as is currently the case) but how about the other garden areas? Would YR 1 be able to use sandpit for instance? Which of these areas would be accessible during play or lesson time? – this would have an impact on lifespan/durability of equipment and be an incentive in getting parents involved.

Debbie and Tim – said that they would encourage new areas (except Rainbow Room) to be open to Yr 1 and poss Yr 2 pupils – certainly during lesson time. Playtime access would have to be discussed – dependant on available supervision.

- 2) Sandpit – Any ideas of initial and maintenance costs? How usable would it be during cold/wet months? Idea of adding sail?

Debbie clarified that initial quote from Greendales Construction was £1200 with annual renewal of sand costing £200 a time.

- 3) Mud kitchen – This idea got everyone's attention and the value of having overalls available was well supported!
- 4) PR/Getting parents involved – such a large project will need a co-ordinated Whole school approach to get parents to commit the materials, skills and hours required. It would help if there was a presentation to parents by Senior staff/OPAL outlining why the project is so important to all pupils – present and future.
- 5) Groundforce Day - To make the Groundforce Day effective there would need to be a clear list of projects for the day – and supporting info on what goes where, how it is to be constructed (need to involve Julie Batt/Mark Sharman re: health and safety issues – parents have to be safeguarded too!). We need to know what materials are needed – which are being provided and which do FOPS/parents need to source/provide. What tools are required? Are there specific skills needed?
- 6) The project will need a clear overall plan of action – clarifying which areas can be funded and actioned immediately, using this years budget of £6000 and which areas/equipment will follow in 2018 and 2019.

Update on Early Years setting project from Sheena – Based on feedback from visiting consultants and staff have already committed some of this years £6000 budget allocated by FOPS. These purchases are:

2 large background photo hangings of a building site for the Rainbow Room construction area.

A large trolley for our physical area to ensure easy and free access for the children at all times.

Plus 5 large metal cupboards to be kept in the Rainbow Room so that resources for the EYFS learning areas can be kept tidy. Total **£1,736.00**

- 3) **Update on current FOPS finances** - cash balance is £12,000. Sarah will email us an itemised breakdown of fund raised to date plus funds that FOPS have already approved and committed.

4) Additional Expenditure requests –

- 1) School has asked if FOPS would once again fund the Christmas Pantomime by Pied Piper Theatre Company at a cost of £240, FOPS has approved.
- 2) Clare Cruddas has asked if FOPS would fund three induction hobs for cooking club: total of £60. FOPS has approved.

5) Events for this term –

Playground Cake sales to commence once again. Helen Day to organise. Children's Cake sale set for Friday 3rd Feb. FOPS agree to raise donation from 50p per child to £1 (inline with HTSC and current playground prices). Each child is asked to donate 6 NUT FREE cakes or cookies and bring in £1 for two cakes. Sale to take place 1.30-3pm in hall, each class takes a turn to visit. Remaining treats to be sold in playground at 3pm Pick Up.

Bedtime story is on Tues 7th Feb, 5.15-6 pm. FOPS to provide hot choc and biscuits to children while in their classes. Tea and coffee to parents in hall, plus possible Secondhand uniform sale.

Bake 'n stroll is to take place on 23rd April on St. George's Day. FOPS chairs to organise.

Easter egg hunt: FOPS/Nicci to purchase Easter Eggs rather than take time requesting donations. FOPS will provide Haribos for children with allergies. Need to confirm date/timing with Clare Brunet.

6) Future events –

Summer Fair will be on 11th June from 1-3 pm, bouncy castle is booked.

HTPD Fun Run is on 21st May at Shalford Park. FOPS happy to organise and sell refreshments including Ice Cream and work with Fun Run committee to organise.

- 7) **Further fundraising suggestions** - Year 1 reps have come up with several new fundraising suggestions.

Shrove Tues – Yr 1 reps are happy to organise pancakes 3pm playground sale for Shrove Tuesday. Another suggestion was to hold pancake races at school and charge one pound per child, easy money. FOPS chairs to follow up with Clare Brunet and see what is feasible.

Mother's Day on 26th March - Suggestion of selling a product sporting the childrens design. Year 1 suggest looking at Countryside Art website.

Childrens art competition to win dinner out (or similar) voucher – good to capitalise on raffle contacts away from Christmas/Summer Fair windows. Charge £1 per entry.

- 8) **A.O.B.** - Uniform sales: Ozzie will get a date for the uniform sales.

- 9) **Date for the next meeting** will be Wed 10th May at 8pm in the staffroom at Pewley.