

**Parent Forum Agenda**

**Thursday 30th September 2021**

**9.30-10.30am in Cressex Dining Room**

Attending: Bradley Taylor, Wendy Taylor, Liz Webber (mins), PD, SW, AS, CA, PK, EH, MA

1. **Welcome & introductions**

Liz opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the school before asking everyone to introduce themselves to the meeting.

1. **Headteacher’s Update**

**Recruitment of Headteacher Update**

Bradley shared an update on the recruitment process for the Headteacher position once he leaves in January. There were 3 candidates and after rigorous interviewing from the School Governors and Bucks County Council team (including SEN) on Tuesday, it was decided to appoint Rachel Chapman as the new Headteacher of Chiltern Wood School. Rachel is currently the Deputy Head at Alfriston School.

PD, Parent Governor, added that Bradley leaves big shoes to fill and that after a long and lengthy recruitment process, the governors are pleased to have found the best candidate for the position.

One parent asked how long Rachel had been at Alfriston School. Bradley has not seen Rachel’s application as he was not involved in the recruitment, however he believes that she has been at Alfriston for a long time.

Rachel will be working when she can with Bradley over the coming months and starts in January. It is hoped that she will be able to come along to the next Parent Forum to meet parents. There will also be a Meet the New Headteacher Coffee Morning in January.

**COVID Update**

Bradley shared that the school is trying to get as much back to normal as possible. He is aware that children and SEN and their families have suffered over the COVID pandemic.

The school is doing what it can to mitigate the risks, however the risks will have risen as we are getting the school day back to normal. As parents will know, parents of children aged 12-15 will be offered the vaccine. Evidence suggests that children are at less risk of transmitting the virus.

Since the start of term, we have had 3 staff test positive with COVID, although none of these are related to each other. This is much better than last year. If a staff member has a family member with a positive COVID case then the staff member is being asked to wear a face mask in school.

Bradley asked for parents views on sending their children into school under the new norm situation. All parents said that they were very happy to send their children in. One parent said that she was aware that the school was doing everything they can and cannot rate the school higher on how it has cared for children and families during the Pandemic. She said that CWS has been better than another school that her son was at last year.

1. **Parent Ambassador’s role for all new parents**

Liz explained about the role of the Parent Ambassador. Liz is available to support parents of children at the school, as well as arranged workshops and training for parents. Liz also runs the Parent Volunteers.

1. **Parent Volunteers**

Liz and the other parents shared about the work of the Parent Volunteers. They are a team of parents who help with jobs at the school, including laminating, cutting out things for the teachers, working in the library and gardening work.

Liz shared about how parents can become Parent Volunteers and how they apply to do so (application form and DBS check). Please contact Liz if you are interested in joining the team.

1. **Parent events**

Liz shared about the upcoming Parent events.

1. **AOB /questions from parents**

One parent asked about holiday clubs for children with additional needs. Wendy explained how we have tried to run them in the past, but they have proved too difficult to get the necessary staffing for. Liz will look into local options for parents.

Liz closed the meeting at 10.40am.