

Parent Forum Meeting Minutes

<p>Team: Parent Forum Date: 10.7.25 Chair: Amy Hyde Minutes written by: Amy Hyde</p>	<p>Present: Fiona Brooks (year 4) and Tanya Topham (year 1), Laura Letford (year 5) Apologies: Cath Bainbridge, and Emma Reed (Reception and year 2)</p>	
<p>AGENDA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reception • Year 1 • Year 2 • Year 5 • Year 4 <p>Please note that most of the agenda items that have been submitted by parents and carers to their reps have been copied and pasted word-for-word – these can be seen in bold.</p>		<p>Actions</p>
<p>Items from last meeting:</p>	<p>Would parents be interested in a second hand sale of uniform? Reps felt that although parents and carers would use this, they acknowledged that there wasn't good take up on this in the past. They wondered whether parents didn't want to be seen to be needing second hand uniform, but it was discussed that it is an environmentally friendly thing to do so we could perhaps advertise it that way. Something to look into more, perhaps through a parent survey. Parents could use second hand sites online for now.</p>	
<p>Year 1</p>	<p>What are the procedures for school uniform in the extreme heat? Options for PE kit or non-uniform? School communicated our risk assessment and change to school procedures during extreme heat in a letter to parents this week.</p> <p>Why does some play equipment have red safety tape around it? Will the equipment be maintained/ fixed? Also the huts/ fences /sheds look very worn - I understand that there is very little within the school budget, but are there plans to do anything to rectify this? We bought paint/woodstain in order to paint all the outdoor woodwork including the fences and huts. We have asked previously for volunteers to support us with this but only had a few responses so far. We hope to get this achieved soon.</p>	<p>AH to ask again for volunteers in Autumn term.</p>
<p>Reception</p>	<p>Are there any future plans to review the behaviour policy and remove the red cards etc as even in reception, where I believe they are not used, the children still associate red cards with "naughty children". I am all for educational consequences and will always support the school but feel the current behaviour policy has a negative impact on children's views.</p>	

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The behaviour policy is reviewed every two years so is up for review again in January 2026. The previous behaviour policy was reviewed by staff, children and parents through the parent forum. In the Autumn term, school will ask everyone for feedback. School never refers to any children as 'naughty children' and always stress that we are addressing the behaviours shown.

Just about their reading books. When they missed swapping their reading book on a Monday due to illness or whatever reason, could they catch up it on another day?

It is rare that children should miss this and when it happens staff endeavour to swap them on a later day that week. If this doesn't happen, please speak to the class teacher at the door.

Photo permissions. Can you not allow parents to take photos but ask them not to put on social media?

Unfortunately, no. We have some children in school who are not allowed to be photographed for very serious reasons. Again, we have had parents in the past breach this and post photos online when asked not to. School cannot (and shouldn't have to) police parents' online behaviour and therefore for the safety and security of our children we cannot allow photos.

Please can you ask if the teachers could be a little more efficient in sending the children out to parents/carers at school pick-up? Sometimes you can be there and very visible and you'll be left standing for a long time....maybe if they have parents/carers which they need to chat to for bump notes etc they could be left until the end or until the majority of children have been released, otherwise we're all left standing around waiting. Also in the morning sometimes the door isn't open until 9am and it makes getting to work tight for some, especially when you have multiple children to drop off/collect. Fridays seem to be the worst for both morning & afternoon.

Mrs Darnell feeds back that she will leave any children with bump notes or messages until the end of the queue. She asks that parents stand well within view of the door as sometimes they are out of her line of sight. Feedback about timings has been taken on board, but Friday afternoons after our celebration assembly can be particularly tight for time.

I feel at times there's a lack of information (especially if you are a parent/carer with a child/children at school for the first time), like we are just supposed to know what's what. A bit more information/detail would be good. Like the open

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afternoon just before the proms. I could've missed the info but there's been other things as well. Could there be an event with info section on the newsletter for example. (An image of the event section was shared). It was then asked what an open afternoon is.

The dates for the diary are useful but having the times on there would be even better (this was a big one seconded by almost all the parents), and big events which are planned in advance to be put in a whole school calendar further in advance so working parents have more time to work out logistics. (The events sheet that was sent out at the beginning of this year was then shared). Then it was requested that this be sent out every year, possibly reissued at the beginning of each term. A Google calendar that we could subscribe to was also suggested.

We take this on board and will ensure that we are explaining each event fully beforehand, either through a specific letter or on the newsletter (as these are the channels parents/carers seem to like the best). If we have not done so, I would urge someone to let us know so that we can send out more information as we are never withholding information on purpose. I have asked staff not to organise any events through Marvellous Me as their messages are limited to a certain amount of characters, but only use Marvellous me for reminders. We try hard to communicate all events in advance and will be sending out our parent event calendar again this term in readiness for next academic year, as we have for the last 2 years. We will ensure timings are given at least a month in advance.

Can I ask if you could mention that we don't have Christmas carols every year and could have a nativity play? Friends of mine at different schools always have nativity plays. I hate that I haven't seen either of my children in one or any kind of play actually. It just always seems to be a song and some random text, and I've also noticed they just use the same songs. I just think making the outfits and watching them say a couple of lines each etc is so special at Christmas time and life long memories for them.

This has been fed back to the Early years team for their consideration.

Can you ask about the Easter bonnet thing too.. the kids used to have to decorate one and then wear it to assemblies etc, they loved it. Now it just seems they can wear a headband and that's it.

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	<p>We will communicate about the bonnets earlier next year and do a big push for parents/carers to make bonnets for the assembly. School will support those who can't do this at home.</p> <p>Other schools in sandy, I know the parents get a copy of the planning for that week. Maybe be an idea to start? So parents are more in the loop. (Again links were shared from another parent directing the other to the right place). We share curriculum information on the website showing what the children are learning and when. In Early years, the learning is a little more fluid as it follows the children's current interests.</p>	
<p>Year 5</p>	<p>Really positive feedback around the camping experience- really appreciate the hard work that went into organising this and the staff for giving up their time etc. Also really appreciate that they were able to re-work the experience and make so much more cost effective - it can't have been easy!</p> <p>Thank you for the feedback and for the parents who brought us treats for the next day. We felt that the event went really well and although the children barely slept (who thought they would?!), they seemed to enjoy themselves.</p> <p>Mixed feedback for the swimming week - some really loved the experience and thoroughly enjoyed it! Some have highlighted one of the swimming teachers was a bit strict and also quiet so children were getting told off for doing the wrong things but couldn't hear her instructions. So, they had a negative experience. Would it be possible to know what the children were assessed on and their outcomes? Kids are saying they "passed" or "not passed".</p> <p><i>Mrs Jacobs feedback: Children passed or didn't based on the KS2 national curriculum requirements for pupils be able to swim competently, confidently, and proficiently over a distance of at least 25 metres, use a range of strokes effectively (such as front crawl, backstroke, and breaststroke), and perform safe self-rescue in different water-based situations. There are 30 different assessment criteria in total. The instructors were all Swim England Qualified so were very competent at instructing and assessing. The majority of pupils made progress or accelerated progress. Those that didn't meet the criteria of swimming 25m will have the opportunity to do so in year 6.</i></p> <p><i>The feedback from Robinsons pool was very positive and instructors informed me that pupils were polite and listened well. One instructor was a bit stricter than the other two and I did have to speak to one pupil about not listening, they then</i></p>	

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	<p><i>informed me that they found it difficult to hear so I told the instructor.</i></p> <p>Mr Neill (PE lead) and I have decided that next year, and in the years moving forwards, we will add whether they passed or didn't onto their end of year reports.</p> <p>School dinners - I understand that there is ongoing feedback around the provider as part of parent forum so any update would be good. In general, they don't provide anywhere near the same level of information about the food as the previous provider, there is never any information around what's available for dessert, sides etc and I don't think the range or choice is anywhere near as good as previously. For context, I am always more aware of the fruit and veg they have at home on school dinner days as I don't think they get the balance right there. It would also be helpful to understand what constitutes a 'portion'.</p> <p>Thank you for the feedback. As our contract with HCL is coming up to its renewal, we have been 'out to tender' with other providers to ensure that we are offering the best meals possible to our children. We contacted HCL directly about the questions raised and they replied: <i>Regarding sides: there are usually 2 carb choices, we have 2 veg options and a minimum of 3 salads daily, the minimum portion of veg is 40g bearing in mind children can have both veg and salad if they wish. Fruit portion for large fruits is 75 gram small fruits i.e. grapes is 40 grams.</i></p>	
<p>Year 4</p>	<p>Some of the agenda items for year 4 have been removed as they are not in line with our parent forum guidelines. Copied from our 'Parent Forum Terms of Reference':</p> <p><i>Some topics cannot be addressed by the Parent Forum and should be referred directly by individual parents to the class teacher in the first instance or a key Stage Leader or member of the SLT if the issue cannot be resolved by the class teacher. These include matters such as, but not restricted to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Issues relating to individual children or staff</i> • <i>Individual complaints or grievances</i> <p>I'm just wondering what their policy is in regards to the kids winding each other up, seems to be a few occasions where children are being pushed to the point of red cards recently and I don't understand why they are being aloud to wind each other up to that point. They should be preventing it and not waiting for the kids to explode before dealing with situations</p>	

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	<p>The school's behaviour policy is on our website. Children are not allowed to 'wind each other up' but are supported to make the right choices with their behaviour. Consequences will be enforced for all children making the wrong choices. Should the children (or parents) feel that something has not been handled in line with this then you should seek more information/clarification from the class teacher. We work hard to teach the children to form positive and healthy friendships, how to manage conflict and also to regulate and manage their emotions so that they don't 'explode'. Parents and carers need to reinforce telling their child to seek adult support should they feel that they are being wound up or are at breaking point to explode.</p> <p>In regards to incidents ie injuries and things along them lines like pushing or hurting themselves why are we not informed of them like bump notes or a message on marvellous me, it seems the younger years I get notified of almost instantly after school at the door or on MM but I have *child's name* telling me after school things have happened or he's had a bumps scraps or felt unwell during the day and I've had no correspondence from the school. A bit more communication in the older years would go a long way I think.</p> <p>Our policy for all injuries is for parents and carers to be informed of any injuries through a bump note. For significant injuries, including head injuries, a phone call home is made. Please note that there are occasions where the children hurt themselves and fail to tell an adult, even though we train them to do so. First aid is carried out by staff across the school, not just your child's teacher. Should parents and carers feel that this policy is not being followed, they should raise it with the class teacher when it happens. This will allow school to address any individual areas of staff training needed.</p> <p>Key stage leaders discussed how in Mulberries and Reception, the adults give out the bump notes and how when they move up the school, the bump notes are placed in bags. Discussion was held with reps around how to make sure bump notes make their way to parents/carers – suggestion made that children walk out the door holding their note to give straight to parents/carers. Idea discussed of sending a Mme message to year 5/6 parents/carers as parents don't pick up.</p> <p>Can you mention the boys saying that the girls can't do things cos they are girls please-particularly sports.</p>	<p>Year 5 rep to ask parent group about MME messages for bump notes.</p>
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	<p>The homophobic banter going on. Not happy about what I've been hearing.</p> <p>These two areas need to be addressed urgently as this is not behaviour that is in line with our school values. Ms Cassidy will be exploring this in more detail with year 4 to find out which individuals it is coming from. We will also do some more focussed work next year in PSHE and assemblies around protected characteristics: race, sexuality, sexism and homophobia.</p>	
<p>Thank you and next year (added by AH after the meeting)</p>	<p>Thank you to all the reps to representing their classes this year. School finds the information shared useful and hopes that parents feel the same way.</p> <p>In regards to reps for next year, we want a rep from every year group. School to advertise broadly again to all parents and go from there.</p> <p>There will continue to be two meetings per term. As per the dates below – these are open for change if the day/time doesn't suit all reps.</p>	<p>AH advertise parent forum in September.</p>
<p>Meeting dates for next academic year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday 2nd October – 2:30pm • Thursday 11th December – 2:30pm • Thursday 12th February – 2:30pm • Thursday 19th March – 2:30pm • Thursday 21st May – 2:30pm • Thursday 25th June – 2:30pm 		