

School Parent Council Meeting

03 December at 1915

Attendees

Name	Abbreviated	Role
Fiona Wyeth	FW	Head Teacher
Rob Zealey	RZ	Governor
John Mitchell	JM	Governor
Oli Rodi	OR	Governor
Katrina Clark	KC	1
Clare Brady	CB	3
Hannah Smith (sec)	HS	4
Rosie Mock	RM	5
Sarah Lambert	SL	6
Liz Chapman	LC	9
Emma Daniel	ED	11

Apologies

None received

Minutes

Point of Order. All new agenda points should be raised by Friday prior to meeting to parentcouncil@overton.hants.sch.uk

1. Minutes from last meeting

- a. Vacancies of representatives on parent council. **Action.** Email has been sent.
- b. TOR agreed at this meeting
- c. Active Uniform information has not been sent.
 - i. FW is not going to pursue this as she acknowledged that the new head may or may not chose to follow this, and so not appropriate to pursue with the timescale before her retirement.
 - ii. KC raised that application of current PE policy not consistent. FW explained that there had been discussions with all teachers who would be applying the policy consistently from January ; the PE uniform is on the website and consists of non-logo, plain, no earrings and appropriate footwear.
 - iii. Children will not be penalised, but parents will get a note home, then email, then may be called into meeting with FW
 - iv. Issue is causing problems higher up in school with a lack of sense of belonging
 - v. School adopts a flexible approach for the few children with sensory issues.
 - vi. No hoods allowed due to putting up hoods and impacting behaviour, and getting caught on equipment in the hall and outside.

- vii. **Action FW to inform parents: To send the PE uniform to the Parent Council reps for their feedback and then to send out to parents before the end of term**

2. **Sports Trolleys.**

- a. **Action FW.** To follow up as thought ordered in July but has not been actioned.

3. **Inter School Sports**

- a. Festival at Cheam for some children- Year 5. Providing a minibus for 15x children. This may be random or more targeted at children who would enjoy it more. FW to liaise with teachers
 - i. Local Heads still keen to do this, but 2 Heads have other priorities.
 - ii. **Action FW:** To talk to Mr Butler about setting up a day at school

4. **Bread rolls at breacktime**

- a. Previously not actioned due to a change to the kitchen staffing. **Action FW:** Will talk to kitchen to aim for up and running by January.

5. **Spelling Shed (SS)**

- a. LC raised as helpful for children who did not like doing spelling, but conflict in homes for screen free days. Parents feel less connected to spelling. Can practice in the car, etc. Overall valued Spelling Shed as supplementary but not main option. Parents asked could it be put on Google Classroom as well (GCR).
- b. FW asked who had homework posted on Google Classrooms, and most said they didn't have much or find it useful with exception of Y5 who said GCR is good. **Action FW:** Will check all spellings are going on GCR except YR
- c. Teachers recommend use of IT for spelling 10 mins, TTRS 20mins weekly in short bursts for maximum impact
- d. CB Y1 said that spellings did not align with those on the paper sheet or that there were different groups on SS and parents did not know which group their child was in.
- e. FW explained that across the school and by the end of Y6, children's spelling is not good, and the school recognised that what they have been doing is not working, and so are trying something new. Following some research with other local schools, Spelling Shed was recommended. FW emphasised that the challenge was that spelling tests are not always translating into children's own independent writing.
- f. CB asked if phonetic spelling has an impact. FW said that there is an argument if they don't choose the right grapheme when writing it doesn't matter- the challenge of English as there are so many different spelling choices for the same sound. CB asked if correcting earlier helps. HS suggested reading more may help. FW said that spelling is still not good for some children despite them being fluent readers. CB said reading with adults in Year 2 has been minimal. FW said she would find out. **Action FW:** Will look into frequency of reading with an adult- marked by "I read with an adult today" stamp in link book.
- g. RM Y2 said children like Spelling Shed, but lack of writing words gives issues with motor skills and muscle memory. She shared that Mr Butler was always willing to send paper copies home and this is appreciated by parents.
- h. ED Y5 gave positive feedback but a mismatch of written spellings for the week and the spelling shed spellings. It would be good to know which were being tested.

Action FW: Will look into the matching, as may not have been set correctly initially but there should be an improvement now.

- i. SL Y2 requested more information on how long to spend on it. The yellow spelling books used to be sent home but don't now, and some parents requested this be reinstated, or could another way to communicate be found. **Action FW:** To investigate what has happened to yellow books and send an email out.

6. Behaviour and Rewards

- a. Hot chocolate Fridays: FW explained that there are 35 hot chocolate sessions across the year approximately and each class can send 2 children every fortnight. Hot chocolate Fridays are used to recognise children consistently doing the right thing, and addressing children who may get noticed less for behaviour which has been consistently good.
- b. Every child should get at least one or two certificates over the course of a year.
Action FW: Will talk to teachers and check.
- c. RM suggested that children cannot understand time and that it is hard for children to only have one certificate over a year.
- d. Acknowledged that it is never going to be fair in that all children receive the same as this would devalue the certificate but hopefully every child will get something each year.
- e. FW stated that research shows stickers are not working (do not motivate children) and this is why this has been removed as a reward option.
- f. FW explained that while the physical rewards such as certificates are nice to receive and are what is more noticeable to parents, the importance of verbal affirmation and recognition for children should not be underestimated, and a lot of this goes on in the classroom. Suggestion that some comment could be written in link book occasionally so parents are aware of good outcomes or behaviour.

7. Collective Rewards and Punishment

- a. FW explained that whatever challenge the class is working on together is rewarded. Concern raised that this is delayed by a few children not behaving- FW said that this is not the case and it can be motivating. A discussion about how even simply lining up will have a significant impact on lost learning time and these activities have to be well managed and timely with age-appropriate expectations.
- b. FW explained that they would not deny children PE, but sometimes children do miss some parts of a playtime.
- c. HS raised concerns that parents are not being told that their children are having behavioural issues early enough. FW stated that Individual parents need to contact school if they are worried that they have not been contacted early enough about behaviour. However, we don't tell parents about all the small incidents as we appreciate that children are young and don't get it right all of the time. If the behaviour continues and becomes more significant then the parents are always informed and if the incident is serious then parents are informed as soon as possible.
- d. Class treats once per term- and these are happening- showing that there is collective reward.
- e. Reiterated that verbal affirmation is going on in class.

8. One way system

- a. Should it be policed? School team trying to enforce as it can be very difficult with large groups or buggies etc going one way and possibility of losing children in the melee at the beginning of the day.

9. Complaints about charge for Nativity

- a. FW made an error and thought it was normally charged but confused this with the Year 6 performances. It was too complicated in terms of administration to then stop. School may or may not make a charge in the future, depending if they choose a new play or not.
- b. FW apologised for confusion caused.

10. Forest School Trial Year

- a. FW explained that this has started as a trial in Y2 with 15x children and then the plan is to roll out across school.
- b. Unfortunately, we will not be able to get all year groups through this year.
- c. It will not be for YR but staff will be encouraged to explore the forest school area with the children

11. Screen use

- a. SL gave feedback that the children seemed to have been watching a lot of TV and asked if the use of TV could be an item for discussion at the next meeting. FW said that this seemed to be coming from Y2 parents and she would look into it.

12. Agenda points for next meeting

- a. After school clubs provision – what is happening in after school club? Can it be more structured
- b. Update to railings on the road
- c. Multiple platforms for communication

Date of next meeting: 1915 28 January 2026

Apologies for next meeting: Hannah Smith