

## **Parent Council Meeting – Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

**Chair:** Rob Zealley (Governor)

**Present:** Fiona Wyeth, Laura Harrison, Jessica Pizzotti, Liz Chapman, Sarah Warriss-Simmons, Claire Albert, Claire Brady, Teresa Pepper, Claire Whitlam

**Absent:** Oli Rodi, Siobhan Branch, Robert Price, Emma Daniel, Rosie Oglethorpe, Sarah Thomason

### **1. Review of previous minutes/actions**

Additional salt bin on list with Hampshire Highways following parent request, no further update.

Lunchtime play trolleys – still to be decided, Mrs Wyeth explained this was delayed due to Ofsted, will aim to update at next meeting

Friday update being utilised to provide reminders about the information on the website, Mrs Wyeth suggested Parent Council continue to remind classes about the Friday update and the wealth of information and resource on the website

Mrs Wyeth confirmed school office hours and book lists have been updated on the school website

Rugby coaching offer from Overton rugby club, parent to go back and find out what the offer is as it would be volunteers who may have work commitments. A parent asked if the volunteers could come in for a day, each class have a taster session and then a link to how to sign up to the rugby club could be included in the Friday update for those children who enjoyed it and would like to sign up. Mrs Wyeth explained any volunteer would need a formal coaching qualification. Mrs Wyeth will look into details for previous contact with rugby club coach.

**ACTIONS:** Mrs Wyeth to update on lunchtime trolleys. Mrs Wyeth and parent to investigate the option of Overton rugby club providing some coaching for the school. Parent council members to remind classes about the Friday update and website.

### **2. Meet and Greet September 2025, content and timings**

Each parent council fed back from their class/year group on preferences for timings of Meet and Greet sessions held at the start of the school year.

Class 1 – close votes between after morning drop off and evening meets

Class 2 – 17 replies, 14 for evening, 2 for after drop off and 1 for after pick up

Class 3 – 12 out of 15 votes for after morning drop off

Class 4 – 7 replies for evening meet, 5 for after morning drop off

Classes 5&6 – 17 replies for evening meets, 7 for after morning drop off, 1 for end of school day

Classes 7&8

Classes 9&10 – majority would prefer evenings

Classes 11&12 – 11 out of 16 votes for 6pm, 3 out of 16 votes for after morning drop off

Classes 13&14 – not asked as not relevant to them

It appears the evening meet and greets are the preferred time, although there is interest in after morning drop off also.

A parent asked if single parents who are unable to leave children with a friend/relative are able to bring their children to the meet and greet session. Mrs Wyeth said this can be accommodated and the child/children could sit in the library to enable the parent to attend the meeting.

Mrs Wyeth will consider if certain year groups would find the meet and greet better earlier in the day.

A parent asked if the meet and greet sessions could be recorded. Mrs Wyeth will speak with staff again but previously they have been hesitant about this.

Mrs Wyeth shared a school information booklet which has been developed containing key and useful information for new starters and to ensure consistency of information provided to children who join the school mid year. Mrs Wyeth asked parent council to provide feedback on the booklet.

Mrs Wyeth advised the meet and greet formats have been updated with staff and will include support at home/home learning and how to use the Link Book.

**ACTION:** Mrs Wyeth will consider timings information from class surveys and discuss with staff the option of recording the meet and greet sessions.

### **3. Screen time and Minecraft**

A parent asked about screen time in year R to understand the reason for the children watching Bluey in class rather than doing colouring. The parent suggested that the children in year R already get screen time for Number Blocks and television for wet play so asked to understand why additional screen time is needed. Mrs Wyeth explained there may be a combination of reasons, for example, when the classroom assistant is covering, or to help manage the class as some children have difficulties regulating behaviours and it can help with this. Mrs Wyeth confirmed there are wet break boxes which the children enjoy but

sometimes they are too heightened if they have not been able to have time outside for breaks due to the weather, and it can be helpful to have screen time.

A parent raised that a recent year 4 class treat involved 1 hour of iPad time and wondered why this couldn't have been an outdoors active class treat as the weather was good and it would make sense to make the most of this. Mrs Wyeth will discuss class treats with staff to ensure a variety of options are offered over the year so treats are not just screen time with iPads or a film.

Mrs Wyeth discussed the Design and Technology curriculum and that the version of Minecraft the school use is supporting computer aided design so its use aligns with the curriculum. The programme provides a hands-on, visual environment where children can construct and manipulate objects in 3D space, developing spatial awareness and symmetry skills. It is good for developing planning and problem solving skills. Mrs Wyeth confirmed the children also do coding activities on the laptops.

**ACTION:** Mrs Wyeth will speak with staff about a balance of class treats across the year.

#### **4. Competitive sport**

Discussion around school involvement with competitive sports. Mrs Wyeth explained previous attempts at school tournaments and netball tournaments which didn't work well. A parent raised that cricket has become much more popular than rounders and if there is an opportunity for school involvement with this as clearly popular from the uptake for All Stars Cricket.

A parent raised that it is important to have an aspiration to achieve inter-school competitions and to look at ways to achieve this.

Mrs Wyeth confirmed that Mr Butler continues to look for opportunities for the school to be involved in sport. Mrs Wyeth explained that it can be challenging to get children to sporting events, previous part share in a minibus was not cost effective and the school could not afford their own. Attendance therefore relies on parents being willing to take their children and potentially other team mates to events. Mrs Wyeth asked if parents would be willing to do this or if parents would prefer to contribute to the hire of a coach to transport the children.

A parent asked about sports co-ordinators which the local authorities used to employ to facilitate organising sports festivals with schools. The co-ordinators used to manage the hurdles that can make such events difficult to organise. Mrs Wyeth is not aware if this role exists locally.

Mrs Wyeth advised that the school does take part in athletics and football tournaments but tag rugby no longer happens.

**ACTIONS:** Parent council reps to ask classes if parents would be willing to support the school in transporting children to events or if they would prefer to contribute to the hire of a coach. Mrs Wyeth to liaise with Mr Butler and see if they can build some ideas for sports events either that the school host or that they attend.

## **5. OFSTED March 2025**

A parent asked about the report. Mrs Wyeth confirmed the school was pleased with the report and the outcome. Mrs Wyeth explained that it is a stressful couple of days for all but that the staff and children were amazing and really shone during the inspection.

## **6. New meal provider Dolce and tuck shop**

A parent asked if the children could have fruit and a pudding. Mrs Wyeth advised that school meals are limited by cost and so the company are not able to do this – it is fruit or a pudding.

Parents fed back that the new company seems to have been a positive change, the options are well received and that parents like being able to support their children to make their choices.

A parent asked what happens if a child is off sick and if they would be charged for the lunch. Mrs Wyeth will check the process for this to avoid parents being charged if the child is off sick.

Mrs Wyeth confirmed there has been a reduction in food waste and that the staff have confirmed that children seem to be enjoying the school meals more with the new company.

A parent asked if the decision around no tuck shop could be reviewed now the new meal provider is in place. Mrs Wyeth explained that there have been staffing challenges for Dolce so is unsure if they would consider this but is happy to discuss this with them. Parents suggested that the tuck shop is good for the children to learn about money management, that if staffing is an issue could year 6 ambassadors support with this, whether it could just happen on one day of the week or limit to a year group or two each day so each year group only visits the tuck shop once a week.

**ACTION:** Mrs Wyeth to confirm the process for cancelling a school meal if a child is off sick that day. Mrs Wyeth to discuss the option of a tuck shop re-starting with Dolce/to consider how this could start up again at the school with support from year 6 ambassadors.

## **7. Any other business**

Mrs Wyeth explained that the school has previously hosted a Voluntary Contribution Scheme which parents contribute to financially to enable activities which the school arrange in addition to the curriculum, for example, pantomime company, living eggs etc. Previously this has been paid through the OSA so Gift Aid can be added and the school would ask for a contribution for each child of £10-12. Mrs Wyeth feels this Scheme may need to be restarted

and would like to understand if parents would be willing to contribute in principle and if so what level of contribution parents would feel is reasonable - £5/10/15/20. A parent suggested the school put out an anonymous survey to parents to be sensitive to those families who may find this challenging. Mrs Wyeth confirmed the school will look to do this.

A reminder from the OSA that help is needed with the summer fete.

**ACTION:** Mrs Wyeth to consider an anonymous parent survey to be sent out to gauge opinion on the Voluntary Contribution Scheme