

## Minutes Parents' Forum Meeting

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2024

### Attendees

Joy Wilcox – Deputy Head

Harriet Johnston – School Secretary

Jane Read – Chair and 6H

Kim Smith – 3N

Emma McCarthy – 3G

Charlotte Cullinan – 4H

Apologies from Alexandra Grant (6W), Sarah Morris (5W) and Cecile Greener (4ZL)

### Agenda items

3N

1. Learning at the expected level – how do teachers ensure children are being stretched?  
Children are read with weekly, and are benchmarked once a term. For Maths they are always taught within three levels to stretch those needing the greater depth. There are always challenge tasks at the end of work and teachers tick off targets for each child every half-term. If parents ever feel their child isn't being stretch we recommend they speak to the class teacher and this can be discussed.
2. Young Voices – is there anything that can be done for the parents to see where the kids are sitting?  
We will have a banner and we recommend parents bring torches. We may look for the teachers to have some red torches so we can do a few flashes at the start so parents can spot us!

3G

1. Changing in classroom – a parent expressed concern over their child changing in the classroom in front of the rest of the class and wanted to check policies for this.  
Children are never required to change fully in the classroom, but before an ECA children may need to change their trousers and put a different top on. In the Summer Term when children start swimming they will be required to undress completely in the changing room (single sex sides) so please speak to your child about ways to get changed so they feel comfortable – it was mentioned sometimes children like to wear cycling shorts on those days so they are not in their underwear when changing.
2. Clubs Active - Parents were upset when a club was available to book without any prior warning. They would appreciate it in future if a live booking time would be given in advance to ensure fairness.  
We would have liked more understanding of what club this was. We will however always endeavour to give parents fair warning and bear this in mind going forwards, however we do know certain clubs do 'sell out' very quickly.
3. Housepoints – parents have expressed general interest into how housepoints are given and if they are consistent across classes, year group and school etc.  
Generally for well completed homework a child could receive up to 3 housepoints – 4 if it was excellent! Mrs Wilcox will feed this back to the teachers to ensure all teachers are following the same rules. When Mrs Goodyear was not in school Mrs Nichols was overseeing the house points for



3G to ensure they were fair and in line with 3N. Children may also be given a house point for good behaviour around the school ie opening a door, helping a member of staff with a task etc.

4. Photographs - Feedback regarding photographs. A parent found the photos recently issued were very expensive and wondered whether the juniors could consider using a different company. The pricing was compared to the Infants which they seem to suggest have more affordable options. [We will investigate this with the Infant School to understand who they use and will try to ensure our provider is a fair price. Thank you for flagging this with us.](#)
5. Little bit more notice for school events (also raised by 4ZL)  
[We always endeavour to give as much notice as we can for events, but appreciate this sometimes this isn't always the case. We always recommend parents check the fortnightly newsletter as dates are put on the back page as soon as we know them.](#)

## 6H

1. Sports - a big thank you for the really excellent sports training the Sports Crew participated in at the Spectrum. [Thank you](#)
2. Author Visit - to see a female local writer who started out in Shottermill was very inspiring and has encouraged her to aim high for herself so thank you for organising this! [Thank you, we thought she was so inspiring too!](#)
3. Support - It was asked that during relevant school discussions, could the teaching team help and remind all children how we need to be kind and respectful and not to comment on peers physical appearances. [Mrs Wilcox has made a note and will feed this back to the team.](#)
4. Uniform - it was asked if it would make life much easier if there was one school uniform. Something suitable for PE and physical ECAs/after school clubs. [It is certainly an idea for us to think about in the future. We have made a note that parents have found the quality with Brigade to be very inconsistent and we will raise this with them.](#)

## 6W

1. SATS - raise a concern re the pressure in Yr6 (weekly mock SATS and now weekly timed tests as homework). I don't think they're considering the mental health impact enough and feel there needs to be more balance between achieving well in SATS and not being constantly stressed. One part of this that there seems to be a little confusion over across the whole class, is whether the SAT homework papers should be timed or not. [The 10 minute deadline doesn't have to start until Christmas however some parents and children prefer to start with the time limit. We always try to alleviate SATS panic and this is why the prep for it starts as early as possible so when the children get to SATS they are familiar with the style of questions and the exam techniques. We also feel it helps to prepare parents to see the style of papers and test. If a child is feeling the pressure please always speak to the class teacher. We want to prepare children but we don't want them to feel unduly stressed so please feed this back if your child is finding it difficult.](#)

5W

1. Footpath along Vicarage Lane – whose responsibility is this/any update? We would like to thank the parent who recently cut back the bushes on Vicarage Lane. Sadly we haven't got very far with the council and who owns the land and who has responsibility. It is very frustrating for us as we feel the road and pavement are dangerous. We shall continue to see what we can do, but we do thank parents for their support and for contacting the council etc.
2. Sports - team sports, practice in advance of events. Joining local leagues if possible (bought up by 4H as well). Mrs Thompson tries very hard to prepare children as much as possible for sports events and children are picked based on who shows an interest in taking part. This does mean it's not always the 'very best', but it is the people who want to take part and give it a go – which is very important. Mrs Thompson does only work part-time and therefore we can't offer a comprehensive programme of training for every event but children aren't going to an event unprepared. We also have hockey and rugby coaches coming in at certain stages of the school year which is a great opportunity for the children to have a taster of a new sport.
3. Is the role of deputy head that Mrs Wilcox has taken going to impact on classroom time for our children? It is a fantastic opportunity but as the previous deputy was not classroom based I was wondering how this would work. Our previous Deputy Head was also the school SENCO so it has always been a dual role. Mrs Wilcox will undertake Deputy Head roles when her class are in their specialist lessons and not being taught by her.
4. Please could you ask if they mix classes up? As a two form entry school I think it is a shame not to mix the classes up in order to help the children make new friendships. This is always something that is an option but it is an emotive subject as for some parents and children it is a good idea but for others it causes upset and deregulation. If we felt the need to alter the classes at Y4 or Y5 we would make this decision based on the current requirement.

4ZL

1. Some parents commented on a catwalk PE exercise with a performance and just wanted to politely comment that not all children are extroverts so whilst being challenged is a positive, could teachers also consider that some children are not as confident as others. This was an optional activity within the lesson and children are never forced to take part in something they feel uncomfortable undertaking.

4H

1. Parking  
I know parents have been warned several times about the parking issues outside of school, perhaps we could have a brainstorm on what could be done to tackle this. We are trying really hard to communicate with parents regarding this, and the PTFA are going to send an email to parents to remind them about the parking issues we face around school. We feel other than continually reminding parents to park and drive carefully sadly there is little more we can do.
2. Mobile phones  
Lots of parents at Shottermill have joined the Smartphone Free Childhood movement, which has a Parent Pact people can sign, saying they will wait to give their child a smartphone until at least the end of Year 9. Across the UK it has been signed by parents representing more than 73,000 children, and the Surrey region is joint first for the most signatures (currently just over 4,500). Is this something the school could promote, and could we try to encourage more parents to sign it?



Info on the pact: <https://parentpact.smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/>

Useful resources: <https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/resources>

[This is something we are happy to circulate. It's a very interesting movement and we are certainly in agreements with a lot of the policies and thoughts.](#)

3. Homework comments. [All homework comments should be raised directly with the form teacher.](#)
4. Trips - a parent asked if we could get a rough estimate of what the year five trip costs to help with budgeting. Apparently the school used to do a handy letter pre-pandemic which told you the residential trips and prices, could that be reinstated, with the caveat that prices may change? [We can absolutely look to share this at the start of the school year and caveat that it is absolutely a rough guide. The coaches are often the most costly element and until they are booked the price can alter a lot.](#)
5. Lunch menus - would it be worth including the menu as a newsletter attachment now and then? [Absolutely we will do this periodically.](#)