



Parent Council Meeting

Thursday 14th November 2024



Present: Lucy Stanley, Katie Rudge, Lindsey Gilbert Becherini, Sarah Copeland, Alison French Carr, Emma Welsh, Emma Richards, Avi Sandhar, Diana Nickless, Kelly Markey.

Apologies: Christian Brown, Claire Bartlett.

Chair: Laura Jackson **SMT:** Gemma Thelwell and Jodie Hales **Minutes:** Claire Mansfield

Nina Barker, Teacher in Year, was introduced to the Parent Council as Communications Lead. She attended to observe.

SMT opened the meeting by explaining the challenges of the Parents' Evening booking system faced by all that morning. Parents have been sharing the link on Whatsapp chats before the school office had completed checks. This generated enquiries to the school office from parents via email and telephone about logins, links and access. A letter is sent to all with answers to FAQ and booking instructions, along with general information about location of appointments etc. This letter also announces the opening of the system to all at the same time to be fair across school, especially to those new to school in Nursery and Reception. The school office realised parents were watching the system hoping to book appointments as soon as it was open. However, the system must be opened in advance to allow for checks to run before parents can book. An email was sent to parents urging them to wait until final checks were complete and the information letter had been sent to all. During the few minutes it took to run the final checks around 50 appointments were made, which subsequently had to be cancelled and the system reset. The Weekly News mentioned that the booking system would be open today, but did not give a specific time to allow for any unforeseen hiccups. This was one! A huge waste of time that was unnecessary had parents read and followed clear school communication.

Points raised by parents via their class representative:

Ofsted – Congratulations from Parent Council, all agreed the Ofsted Report very reflective of school life at Dorridge. SMT and PC delighted with the essence of the report and recognised everyone's hard work generally and during the recent visit from Ofsted.

Wet Play Monitors are not as sensible as they should be.

Interestingly, when they observed Year 6 children supporting KS1 children on the playground and during wet play, Ofsted reported the opposite. Children are hand picked to lead games and activities and are proud to have been chosen. Adults are also on duty. The incident raised during PC seems to have been an isolated incident and it was unnecessary for it to be brought to SMT. Teaching staff will have dealt with it at the time.

Daily Mile – is it possible to change into trainers for Daily Mile? Inconsistent amongst classes. What is policy?

General rule is that Daily Mile happens every day and it is the children's choice to change their shoes. It was discussed that this may not always be the case. Some classes are not given time to change and some children may choose not to. PC felt that sometimes Daily Mile is used as a reward, if children are behind in work they had to forgo their Daily Mile. SMT recognised that sometimes children see it as an excuse to dawdle and chatter in the corridors and cloakrooms. It was suggested by SMT that children wear a plain black trainer which can double as a school shoe. Suitable for running and classroom. Children will not be permitted to wear normal trainers all day. Uniform Spec can be changed. PC will take that suggestion back to parents.

PE KIT, Hoodie - Following on from this, school has been in touch with Palmers in Knowle enquire about the possibility of sourcing a navy hoodie with the school logo for KS1 children who do not have the option of a rugby shirt in their PE kit specification. KS1 children currently come to school dressed in their PE kit on PE day with their school knitwear for warmth. Palmers have responded with a price of £23-£25, depending on size. They also offered to embroider children's initials on the hoodie for free. This idea was well received by the PC and a request was made for the rugby shirt to be replaced in KS2 by a hoodie or sweatshirt. School office will go back to Palmers for a price on both navy hoodie and sweatshirt, all sizes.

School Food has recently come under scrutiny, however, there has been some good feedback from children. They particularly like the macaroni cheese! Ordering via the Arbor app for EYFS/KS1 children is proving to be a success. This is encouraged by school for efficiency but not obligatory. It is understood that parents may not have the time or would prefer to let their child choose during registration on the day. KS2 are encouraged to make their choice independently at school. Menus are on a 3 week rotation and posted on the website.

Behaviour Policy. Parents have requested that if their child is involved in any incidents of poor behaviour that they are notified on the day. SMT explained the steps adhered to in the Behaviour Policy do not always require the parents to be informed. Behaviour is addressed in school and it goes no further. The Behaviour Policy states poor behaviour is dealt with by:

1. 2 minutes 'time out' or thinking time
2. Followed 5 minutes 'time out'
3. 10 minute time out leads to a phone call and letter home

SMT recognised that it's OK for children to be 'naughty' and told off sometimes and poor behaviour is dealt with, children apologise accordingly, and we move on. Sometimes poor behaviour must be addressed as a group. There is always an apology for those to whom it does not apply. JH gave an example of a particular year group who had been pushing the boundaries on a few occasions recently. They were gathered for a discussion on manners, respect and school rules. PC members discussed the for and against of addressing the whole year group instead of picking out specific offenders. JH explained that on this occasion there were too many children to address separately. It was agreed that, like anything in life, rules can be enforced even to those non offenders. Children know if they are innocent and therefore should learn to manage their own response.

Do Sports Coaches understand the needs of SEN children during PE sessions? Parents are concerned that a child with special needs could come across as rude to a teacher not familiar with their needs and their behaviour might be misunderstood. SMT reassured PC that Premier Education coaches are chosen for their experience. Our SENCO has created a Class Profile for PE coaches. There is a difference between a qualified teacher and sports coach, however coaches are very experienced and will have strategies they employ to get the best out of each child. Coaches are closely monitored and where necessary extra training is offered to the individual or a more suitable coach is supplied. Class Teachers have the same coach every week for PE sessions. Children with severe SEND have a 1-2-1 Teaching Assistant with them at all times.

PE Year 1 Screen Time – If children are unable to go outside for PE, sessions are in the hall. Children can use the gym mats and Teachers access an online Cosmic Yoga class, making use of the large screen. Year 1 are also on a rota for Yoga Bugs. These sessions are delivered by a specialist Yoga Instructor who comes into school on Friday afternoons. They run sessions based around a story or a theme.

PE Year 5 - During a recent PE session children were asked to queue to hit a ball with a cricket bat. Is this the best use of PE time? It was discussed that this could have been down to the child's perception. Children are put in small groups and taught certain skills. This would have included hitting a cricket ball with a bat and taking in turns to do that.

After School Clubs, Netball in Year 3 and 4 – KR would kindly like to volunteer to deliver a Netball Club for Year 3&4 children after school. The HR team will contact Katie to organise the necessary checks and DBS for this to potentially start in the Spring Term.

Weekly News will include notes about Head Lice and Walkabout this week.

What is school's thoughts about the Smart Phones Petition? – SMT are doing some research around the advantages and disadvantages of banning smart phones. It is understood that the vast majority of children go home to an iPad. It is often not the device, it's what is on the device that's the issue. In terms of our collaboration with the Arden MAT, we recognise that Arden pupils rely on their smartphones for homework and Edulink apps. Current Year 6 going to Year 7 need supporting with their transition. Children are now with us from age 3-18 and there is a need for a collective plan. There is lots of research going on in Solihull around answers and alternatives. SMT believe there is a need for stricter laws around social media access. Children who make mistakes around social media in Year 6 can be guided and learn from it. If phones are banned until Year 9, those small mistakes become much bigger ones without opportunities to learn from the little things. Ongoing.

SMT are aware of a letter that has been signed by lots of Headteachers and will continue to monitor the situation carefully. We will write to our parents once we have more information available.

Wake up Wednesday via Dojo is being well received.

Dates for Spring Term meetings: 29.01.25 and 06.03.25

Parent Council 2024 – 2025

Class	Parent
ND	Katie Rudge
RD	
RP	Serena Gahir
RS	
1D	Christian Brown
1P	Lucy Stanley
1S	Diana Nicklass
2D	Susan Knott
2P	Sarah Copeland
2S	
3D	Avi Sandhar
3P	
3S	Alison French Carr
4D	Kelly Markey
4P	Katie Rudge
4S	
5D	Claire Bartlett
5P	Emma Welsh
5S	Emma Richards
6D	Laura Jackson
6P	
6S	