



Parent Council Meeting

Tuesday 22nd September 2026



Present: Emma Richards, Lucy Stanley, Emma Welsh, Katie Rudge, Ali French Carr, Serena Gahir, Farrah Megee and Suzanne Crank

Apologies : Clare Taylor, Kelly Markey, Sarah Copeland, Diana Nickless and Sarah Bharat

Chair: Emma Richards and Lucy Stanley **SMT:** Gemma Thelwell, Robyn Morrey and Harriet Gill

Minutes: Claire Mansfield.

PC members – Welcome to the new members of the Parent Council. Despite a recruitment drive via new Nursery and Reception Parents Information Evenings and messages on the Weekly News, some classes do not have a parent representing them on the Parent Council.

The DPS PTA AGM was held on Monday 21st September. 10 people attended including the PTA Chair, Lisa Ferriday and Mrs Thelwell, Head of School. During the meeting plans were put in place for a new approach to comms surrounding events, allowing more time for donations and volunteers. Plans are underway to raise funds for the installation of air conditioning across school in time for Summer 2027. At a recent Governors' meeting, it was agreed that we should share more information with parents about how School Fund money and funds raised by the PTA are spent to benefit our pupils and school community.

The DPS PTA and Parent Council will be joining forces to support each other this year. It was felt clarification around a possible misconception among parents where commitment is concerned. Could it be that parents are reluctant to get involved in case they feel obliged to give time they can't spare? This is not the case, all kinds of help and even small amounts of time are always much appreciated.

School Meals - We are currently adapting our school meal service according to the new Government School Food Standards to ensure we are fully compliant when it comes into play in January 2027. PC have received a number of enquiries regarding school meals and changes that have already been made to the menus this term in preparation. The new standards provide strict guidelines. SMT have created a poster to send to all parents following the meeting containing more information. PC were curious about an increase in children choosing to bring a packed lunch from home and the amount of food wasted in school if children dislike the meal that has been served following the new guidelines. Were the new guidelines making everything 'challengingly healthy?'.

KS2 Netball Post – A request for new Netball posts in the KS2 playground was put forward. The current nets are misshapen and threadbare. Updating this equipment would support KS2 playtimes and after school clubs.

Hanbury Road – The question of launching a campaign with SMBC about making Hanbury Road officially one way was raised again. SMT agreed that the roads around school during the first week of the new year were particularly bad as parents were getting used to drop off and pick up times. Comms reminding parents about the unwritten rule and appealing to them to park further way, walk or scoot to and from school were sent to all. Mrs Thelwell explained Hanbury Road residents or the Council have no appetite with to make Hanbury Road one way. However, she is in the process of applying for an Active Travel Grant which could provide the school with up to £5000 to spend on travel initiatives to reduce traffic. The new scooter park by the KS1 gate is now in use and a request for another by the Year 3&4 gate was made during the meeting. These will compliment the scooter park at the Hanbury Road end of the path and the bike shed in the KS2 playground.

DPS PTA Welcome Back Picnic – Parents shared positive feedback about the picnic. They thought it was a more chilled event and were pleased about the refined activities. It was well attended. That said, the PTA raised less than half the funds normally raised at the Summer Fair. Due to its success this event will remain on the PTA calendar at the start of every academic year.

CPR Training for Kids – Year 4 children had a visit from the Red Cross last year who provided a Basic First Aid Workshop. PC suggested children could benefit from things like knowing how to call 999 and what to say. Can there be more opportunities in school for workshops like this one?

Uniformly – Farrah Megee, one of our parents, has created an online platform for preloved uniform. Farrah attended the meeting to explain how it can be used in school. A meeting with our Preloved Team, Ali FC from the Parent Council and Farrah will be organised to see if Uniformly is a good fit for Dorridge. Excuse the pun! Mrs Mansfield will coordinate this.

KS2 Uniform – Children are permitted to wear the summer uniform during Autumn 1. Ties are not optional after October half term.

Year 2-3 Transition – The transition timetable for Year 2 children moving to Year 3 in the Summer Term received some positive feedback. The children spent time in the KS2 building at playtimes, assembly, having lunch and meeting their new Teacher. Gemma Thelwell, Head of School KS1 and Lucy Stanley, Parent Council worked together to create a helpful guide for parents to assist with the changes when moving from KS1 to KS2. This was sent to all at the end of the term to pre-empt questions and allay concerns.

Date for Next Meeting: Tuesday 10th November 2026