



Parent Council Meeting

Thursday 6th March 2025



Present: Laura Jackson, Emma Richards, Emma Welsh, Serena Gahir, Lucy Stanley, Claire Taylor.

Apologies: Sarah Copeland, Ali French Carr, Susan, Avi Sandhar, Diana Nicklass, Kelly, Claire Bartlett, Susan Knott. Katie Rudge.

Chair: Laura Jackson **SMT:** Jodie Hales **Minutes:** Claire Mansfield

Jodie Hales opened the meeting with a positive point raised by the Admin Team who have seen a notable shift in correspondence from parents. SMT agreed that there has been a good response to the Conduct Letter sent to all parents on 12.02.25. The letter outlined the importance of trusting the knowledge and experience of Teaching Staff and SMT. Parents are to be assured that there is always a process, two sides to every story and what children share with parents at the end of the day is not always the complete truth.

Parent Council added that they would like to see less feedback that consists of individual gripes that could be taken directly to the teacher for resolution. Parent Council was created to introduce positive solutions and change that has an impact on a class, year group or the whole school. PC would like to use their voice and time to make improvements and suggestions that are seen across the school.

Points raised by Parents:

Year 3 Homework: Year 3 were given a list of Stone Age homework assignments to choose one to do. This was set around half term. There were mixed opinions and some confusion about project style homework. It was established that this was instead of regular spelling and English homework. Some parents would prefer homework to be more consistent as it can throw the routine out. Some parents would prefer not to do things during the holiday especially if they are away. Mrs Hales explained that there was a choice and children could be encouraged to pick the option that they could do independently or one that didn't require a trip to hobbycraft. Parents should not feel under pressure to produce something that they don't have the time or the resources for. Parents are encouraged to either ask their teacher for more time or explain that they are unable to do it due to a family holiday.

Mrs Hales explained that project homework had originally been born out of feedback from parents of creative children who would like to see a variety of homework set. Something parents can sit with their child and do together. This type of homework should be set once every term. The next creative homework is to design a book cover and write the blurb on the back. PC agreed this was reasonable as it was instead/for English homework and something children could do independently.

Year 2 Homework Can the reading books in Year 2 be changed more consistently?
Mathletics, sometimes there are 3 lots of homework and others only one. Mrs Hales will check.

Parentpay Parents have made a request for items on parentpay to be monitored more closely and for non compulsory items, such as charity donations, to be removed on a regular basis. This is to make the items that parents need to pay for more visible.

After School Clubs Parents have put in a request for more spaces to be made available on after school clubs. School currently offers over 20 clubs across the year clubs Monday to Friday in addition to Darby's Teatime Club. The organisation of these is tricky when considering space and children to adult ratios for both outside providers and teacher/volunteer led clubs. Particularly popular clubs like Bayleaf Cookery have been offered an extra night to reduce their waiting list but they have declined. Daily management is a balancing act when considering the weather, other events in school and away league matches.

Positive feedback

As part of book week the visiting author, Jess French, was a huge success.

Comms for Christmas and Charity Fortnight have been very helpful.

Request to bring back meatballs on the lunch menu!

Are children able to bring a packed lunch and purchase a pudding on special menu days?

Update on Smartphones

Following a SMBC led meeting about Smartphones and young children at Alderbrook School, information was shared with Dorridge parents on 13.02.25. Smartphones were also discussed during the previous PC meeting in January. Mrs Thelwell attended both meetings. She is involved in organising a meeting for parents and is liaising with Nick Halligan, Deputy Executive Headteacher AMAT. Karen Johnson, parent, will represent and coordinate Dorridge parents creating a working party. A date has been agreed, Wednesday 21st May, and the intention is to invite all parents via an Eventbrite. A flyer containing more information and a link for registration will be sent to parents. Another copy of the initial letter will be included in the Weekly News this week for parents who require more insight.

Next Meeting: