

# Parent Council Meeting

13th March 2025

## Attendees

Mark Ashley Jones, Ms Hines, Kat, Jess, Susanna, Laura, Fritha

Apologies: Toni

## Agenda

### Welcome from the Chair

### Agenda Items

- **Year 5 French Trip Communication:**
  - Some concerns raised about lack of clear communication ahead of the trip.
  - Specific details requested by some parents (e.g. ferry or train travel).
  - Not all parents felt this was an issue.
  - School explained intention to avoid unnecessary back-and-forth, which can cause confusion.
  - Reminder letter was sent out including all key details.
  - Suggestion for next year: hold a Teams meeting before the trip for parents to ask questions directly to staff.

**Post-meeting note:** Thanks and congratulations are extended to the staff for a successful and well-executed trip.

- **End of Year Class Changes Policy:**
  - Clarification sought on why Year 1 classes stayed the same moving into Year 2, while other year groups have class changes.
  - School noted this has been addressed in previous Parent Council meetings.
  - Parents to be referred to the Admissions Policy; this will be shared again ahead of class changes in the summer term.
  - Request for teachers to speak with parents if a significant split between two close friends is anticipated.
  - Suggestion to remind children that, although classes may change, they will still see their friends.
- **Arbor:**
  - Issues raised regarding visibility of previous Parent Evening appointments; system does not appear to clear older data.

- Mrs Moorfield (currently on maternity leave) is leading on Arbor systems and is meeting with Arbor to review functionality.
  - School and Parent Council agree it would be useful to retain a history of Parent Teacher Meetings in the app.
  - School will ask Arbor if an option to archive past information can be added, for those that want.
  - Request for a 'school dinners money running low' notification.
  - Suggestion for swimming payment reminders to help ensure timely payments.
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- **Gate Access Near Reception Classes:**
    - Request made to consider reopening gates near reception to improve accessibility for parents and children.
    - School explained gates were originally opened due to COVID regulations.
    - Safety review conducted; need to keep Early Years entrance separate prioritised.
    - School acknowledges reopening would be more convenient but confirmed gates will remain closed for safety reasons.
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- **School Meal Portions:**
    - Concerns raised about portion sizes and children feeling hungry by end of the school day.
    - Clarification provided:
      - Two tray sizes to be implemented: small (Reception & Year 1) and large (rest of school).
      - Portion sizes comply with food standards and sustainability policies.
      - School is currently subsidising meal costs due to rising food prices.
    - If there are concerns about meals or portions, feedback should be given to the school office on the same day.
    - Children are encouraged to inform an adult if still hungry; they must raise their hand before leaving to ensure they have eaten enough.
    - Suggestion to send photos of portion sizes to parents to provide clarity.
    - Positive feedback received on the salad bar.
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- **Smartphone-Free Childhood Campaign:**
    - Reminder about the *Whitstable Unplugged* initiative – supported by parents from all schools in Whitstable.
    - General excitement expressed about the direction and positive momentum, including recent coverage on Radio 4.
    - Suggestion made for a letter to be sent to parents from Mrs Hines, acknowledging the school's awareness of the initiative, sharing resources, and reinforcing the school's position.

- Separate meeting to be arranged with Jess and Mr AJ to further discuss the school's involvement.

## **AOB**

- Newsletter:
  - Suggestion to include a reminder in the school newsletter about the Parent Council.
  - Encourage parents to get in touch via the Parent Council email if they have points they would like raised at the next meeting.

## **Action Items**

1. Next year's Y5 French trip Teams meeting - MAJ.
2. Share the Admissions Policy with parents again ahead of the class changes in the summer term - MAJ.
3. Arbor - Mrs Moorfield, Ms Hines
4. School meal portions - Ms Hines, MAJ
5. Smartphone-Free Childhood Initiative - Ms Hines, MAJ, Jess
6. Parent Council reminder in Newsletter - MAJ

## **Next meeting Term 5 tbc**