

# Parent Council Agenda

Date: 12<sup>th</sup> December 2025

Time: 9.00am

- **Matters Arising**

- Solar Panel Updates
  - Panels have been operating for 3 weeks. Initial check on 5th Dec suggests significant CO<sub>2</sub> savings (equivalent to driving to Glasgow and back).
  - Automated monitoring means any faults will be automatically flagged.
  - Some areas have had a small facelift with new paint.
  - Entrance canopy to be refurbished in February.
  - Lights in Y4 and Y5 have also been upgraded using remaining funds.
  - More communications on the solar panel project, including photos, to follow in the new year.
- Governors Meetings and Information - [Website](#)
  - [Governors' page on school website](#) refreshed with full public information
  - Parents encouraged to notify Mr McGrath if anything is missing or difficult to find.
- Pen Licenses - Year 6 Transition
  - Following previous discussion: all Y6 pupils who haven't received a pen licence by their penultimate half term will receive one as part of transition to secondary school.
- Kitchen Updates
  - Mr Aziz is currently on jury service.
  - External agency support and help from Grazebrook's head chef have ensured Christmas lunch and day-to-day service run smoothly. Plenty of positive feedback from the children about Christmas lunch.
  - Overall food provision noted as very good.
  - Trial of crudité platters (carrot, cucumber, pepper batons; cherry tomatoes) on tables for children—in nursery initially, launching January.

- **Headteacher Updates**

- Christmas Performances
  - Strong family engagement; performances so far widely celebrated- several more still to take place).
  - Families enjoyed supporting children with lines and preparation.
  - Some children found elements challenging (e.g., role disappointment, stage confidence- but this was agreed to be a valuable learning experience.
  - Reception Nativity: a few parents asked why a religious story was chosen. Discussion centred on the cultural winter tradition/British values, though feedback is welcome.
  - Clearer communication planned around requests for props and support from families. One year had success with a shared Google doc between teachers and contributing parents.
  - Teachers have worked extremely hard; performances will continue next year (no repeats year-to-year).
  - High-quality music noted and appreciated.
  - Y6 expected to deliver a high-quality leavers' performance.
  - Ms Williams considering a "Spring Fling" event (performances, music, etc.). More information to come in 2026.
- After School Clubs
  - Spring 1 clubs will be shared on Monday 15th December.
  - School keeps some club capacity in reserve for children needing additional support.
  - Families will note some club changes: chess club split into two due to demand; a few provider contracts ended so new activities have been arranged by Bev.
  - Parents noted the popularity of Forest School and requested more capacity. Options for the school to investigate:
    - Increase number of Forest School club days
    - Introduce a gardening club

- Raise club fees to fund additional Forest School provision
- Noted that Forest School is also available to all KS2 children during school time (30-min groups) - an activity that the children really enjoy and parents celebrated
- **Curriculum Update**
  - Spring 1 Topics
    - Returning to Geography (from History).
    - Parents encouraged to use the website curriculum pages to support learning at home.
  - Key Dates
    - Key dates to be added to calendars shortly.
    - Parents' consultation evenings: 17th & 18th March 2026. During the latest parent consultations, one or two families had requested more time to look at children's books ahead of consultation with teachers. Confirmed that families may request to view their child's books at any time; also that alternative slots for consultation can be arranged through the office.
- **Communication**
  - Clarity
    - Aim: all information should appear on MCAS, and SMS/email only sent for those without the MCAS app.
    - Parents offered to help disseminate information via WhatsApp, to avoid office staff having to inundate families with messaging
    - Request for more specificity and consistency in message wording (e.g., clearly stating Year/Years, dates, event details).
  - Spring 1 Information
- **Shacklewell Families**
  - Winter Fair
    - A huge success, with a total raised of £9,283 excluding the raffle, expected to reach £10,000.
  - Parent Survey
    - Distributed in November via MCAS and WhatsApp.
    - 118 responses. Y2 biggest responders; Y6 lowest.
    - 20%: class resources/materials/23%: outdoor improvements/equipment/43%: trips and enrichment activities
    - Additional suggestions included:
      - Specialist drama teaching
      - Funding support for PGL places
      - Garden classroom visits
      - Playground lighting
      - Additional SENDCo support
      - Ground-floor bathrooms (noted that this work was carried out in Oct)
  - Funding
    - £20k contribution to new KS1 playground. Total cost expected in the region of £80k; school to run a crowdfunder involving families, local businesses, and other contacts.
    - From Sept 2026 onwards: £1,200 per year group to support future PGL funded places (flexible use).
    - From Jan 2026: £500 per class for curriculum-linked enrichment (workshops, trips). Coordinated by Mr McGrath, Mr Middleburgh and Ms Williams.
    - Continued subsidisation of the Christmas panto.
    - Cover Scrap Project membership (Homerton).
    - Cover annual anti-bullying workshops.
    - Maintain hardship fund.
- **Parent Council Chair**
  - Updates
    - Thanks extended by many families to the office staff, for the continued calm and helpful support.
- **AOB**
  - Parent suggestion: Explore membership with the FFS shop on Prince George Road for clothing swaps (e.g., winter coats).

- Nursery/Reception Our Space: request for children to have some outdoor time built into Our Space provision when daylight permits.
- Slippery ramp to KS2 playground causing issues for those with mobility needs and buggies:
  - From January 2026, KS2 collection will return to the KS2 gate.
  - Parents with mobility needs/buggies may enter KS1 and children will be sent up.
- Recognising all staff at end of year (including support staff, PE teachers, office staff). School to consider options.
- Encouraging more diverse parent representation in Shacklewell Families and Parent Council, especially more male involvement. Liam to draft message encouraging dads to participate.
- Avoiding reinforcing gender stereotypes (women providing care/extra-curricula activities; men less present in childcare/mainly doing sport)
- Ensuring more mixed play in KS2 (e.g., avoiding gender-segregated football).
- Classroom PE to reflect the approach used by Coach Gattie and PE team.
- Noted that there is improved visibility of playground dynamics due to increased senior staff presence—parents expressed appreciation.