

Parent Council Minutes

Date: 24th October 2025

Time: 9.00am

- **Year reps introduced**
 - Nursery & Parent Council Chair: Holly
 - Reception: Michelle
 - Year 1: Sarah
 - Year 2: Georgia
 - Year 3: Jemma
 - Year 4: Mike
 - Year 5: Francesca
 - Year 6: Gemma
- **Matters Arising**
 - None
- **Headteacher Updates**
 - Welcome/start of term
 - New teachers have started at the school after a rigorous and robust induction that was consistent across all new staff. They have been recruited with a range of experience, from newly trained to experienced teachers. A new 'triad system' is in place where teachers sit in each other's lessons to build experience and form positive relationships.
 - A recent routine Hackney school review was positive.
 - Roof/solar panels update
 - There has been a low impact on staff and children and the work is progressing well. Installation of the solar panels is occurring very soon now that the roof has been replaced. Many ceiling windows (northlights) are also being replaced which will mean the schools climate will be more easily controlled in future.
 - 14th November is the target completion date and work is on course to meet that as long as the weather does not become disruptive.
 - After a period of time, the panels will gather enough electricity that the surplus will be sold, providing extra funds for the school and bringing bills down.
 - This work is also an educational aid on sustainability. There will be energy data available for the children to analyse and learn from.
- **Christmas**
 - Feedback from last year has been considered and acted on. A full theatrical production will take place performed by every year group with two showings, apart from Reception who will perform once. All performances below take place twice on the date shown at 09.00 and 14.00 unless otherwise shown.
 - Nursery: songs and craft. Date and time to be confirmed within provision.
 - Reception: Nativity 12 Dec (one performance at 9.00)
 - Year 1: Twinkly Nativity (Tuesday 16th Dec)
 - Year 2: Twinkly Nativity (Monday 15th Dec)
 - Year 3: Scrooge's Green Christmas (Tuesday 9th Dec)
 - Year 4: Scrooge's Green Christmas (Monday 8th Dec)
 - Year 5: Bah Humbug (Wednesday 17rd Dec)
 - Year 6: Oliver With a Twist (Thursday 18th Dec)
 - The school has purchased scripts with plenty of speaking parts, auditions will happen for the bigger roles- rehearsals begin 3rd Nov.
 - Two tickets will be available for every child.
 - School musicians will play as parents arrive and a 'mince pie and mingle' event will happen around the performances also.
 - More details will be shared nearer the dates.

- **Lunch and playtimes**

- New structure
 - Good feedback has been received. Children's key adults plus leaders are on the playground every day. Incidents are now dealt with in the playground, which has ensured a much smoother transition into the school after playground times.
- Water access
 - Fountains and cups available at lunchtime for younger children.
 - As well as the above, older children are reminded where water is available.
- Lunch timings
 - Below are the approximate timings for children coming into lunch;
 - Reception: 11:45am
 - Year 1: 12.00pm
 - Year 2: 12.15pm
 - Year 3: 12.30pm
 - Year 4: 12.40pm
 - Year 5: 12.50pm
 - Year 6: 1.00pm
 - Feedback from parent council:
 - some staff possibly overly rushing children.
 - salad bar - some younger children may need more assistance in accessing the options available.
- Accident Update
 - The school has looked at accident numbers that were raised in the previous meeting.
 - For the school year 2023-24, incidents that required an Accident At School report = 5 and for 2024-15, incidents = 7
 - This breaks down to 3 more occurring in KS1 and the KS2 number reducing by 1.
 - National figures suggest that an average of 1 incident per 60 children is within the bounds of acceptable. This means the school's rate of 7 accidents per 456 children is within this.
 - Mr McGrath reiterated the school's position that any injury is one too many and that the school team had worked hard to reduce any potential accidents. This includes increased staff supervision ratio, investment in alternative play equipment and games, guidance on how to use the playground equipment for the children and the deployment of teaching assistants and senior leaders during every breaktime. The data suggests this increase was a limited event which should hopefully not occur again.
 - Parent feedback:
 - Data could be more contextualised and comparative information provided.
 - Data should be easier to access.

- **Curriculum Update**

- Maths and reading
 - Approach to reading in KS2 has been overhauled. Children are all reading the same book from start to finish and each week answering a single 'big' question, immersing them in the text - language choice, character development etc. At the end of the week they write a full summary enabling rich knowledge of character and novel structure. Children's discussion and reading have been very good.
 - Maths in KS1: Previously the fundamental aspects could have been better embedded. The school is now designing an entire maths curriculum using NCETM materials and with guidance from the Maths Hubs. This should help with the move up to KS2, and develop the children's maths knowledge in a more considered and fluid way.
 - Parent feedback: a 'joy of maths' should be enabled.
 - KS1 is finding it more important to count real world things, not just conceptual objects. KS2 further embeds this.
 - Numbots and TTRS items should be addressed to the class teacher.
 - how much freedom do teachers have to adapt for each child's needs- teachers are flexible, children requiring specific help are aided through various means: e.g. targeted tasks or peer learning.

- Home learning and spellings
 - From the w/c 3rd Nov, everyone will be on the same spelling week, hopefully reducing confusion.
- Pen licence update
 - Reviewed. Will continue as an expectation but concerns from some children will be addressed sensitively in classrooms. The school will consider issuing pens post-SATs as an aid for the transition to secondary school.
- **Trips and Enrichment**
 - Tax-free childcare/vouchers
 - PGL tax free childcare vouchers cannot be used, they can only be used for out of school hours and on school premises. This will be disappointing to some parents, but in all other school events on site, they can be used. A leaflet will be shared with parents reminding them how the tax-free system works.
 - Sport selection
 - Shacklewell has competitions as well as normal sports provision. Competition is selective. Non-competitive opportunities should be shared fairly and there is a process to manage this.
 - Working party
 - The school is getting parents involved in school life: recommending trips, and bringing skills and knowledge into classrooms. Families should volunteer their experience and make themselves known. Year reps will request ideas for
 - Parents coming in to the school to deliver sessions
 - Getting access to their places of work for visits
 - Suggesting good community venue for school trips
 - Photography policy
 - Parents attending trips are not permitted to take photos for sharing on WhatsApp and social media.
- **Shacklewell Families**
 - Fright Night
 - Over £3000 raised!
 - Funding goals
 - A survey will be shared with parents for ideas on how to spend the funds.
- **AOB**
 - Wraparound - session timings were discussed and the possibility of having a 3:30pm-4:45pm offer. This will not be possible for at least this tax year. The school will consider for the next financial year and provide an update later.
 - Come Dine With Me should be booked through the MCAS app only.
 - OurSpace refunds will only be issued with at least 24 hours notice.
 - Year 6 Booster Lessons
 - Boosters are from 3.30pm to 4.15pm. Children cannot walk home alone as it is too dark. These lessons are not compulsory but very much encouraged. Not every child will be invited, this is decided with testing data. From the end of January, all Year 6 children will attend. This helps children prepare for their SATs and the expectations of secondary school.