

Minutes for the PFG meeting 28th March 2025

In attendance

Emma Fenn (EF) - Headteacher
Amanda Bowran (AB) - Business Manager
Vicky Knowles (VK) - Vice-Chair of Governors
Suzie Birchwood (SB) - Governor
Jo Medcraft(JM) - Chair and Rep for Sycamore Class (Yr6)
Marie McGrath (MM) - Rep for Lime Class (Reception)
Sarah Hudson (SH) - Rep for Willow Class (Reception)
Charlotte Watson (CW) - Rep for Beech Class (Yr 1)
Rick Wilson (RW) - Rep for Maple Class (Yr2)
Laura Molloy (LM) - Rep for Chestnut Class (Yr2)
Alex Colville (AC) - Rep for Elm Class (Yr3)
Lyndsey Westney (LW) - Rep for Fir Class (Yr3)
Linda Gezi (LG) - Rep for Acer Class (Yr4)
Pam Tolchard (PT) - Rep for Yr 5
Emma Carion (EC) - Rep for Hawthorn (Yr6) and Pine Class (Yr4)

JM welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming at the end of a busy week. She will be stepping down as chair in July as from September she will no longer have a child in school. EF emphasised how valuable the PFG is to the SLT. JM outlined the duties of the Chair. LM very kindly volunteered to take over the role. JM to liaise with LM for the next meeting.

EF gave a short round up of the Ofsted visit. It has been a busy week, with all staff working extremely hard and children representing the school brilliantly. The school is only allowed to say "We are pleased with how it went". CW commented that the letter that was sent out following the inspection was well-written and reassuring for parents. MM asked when will the official Ofsted report be published. EF - after Easter.

JM - Sport provision not on the agenda as the letter sent out on Monday was clear and said what needed to be said on the subject. EF was happy to talk about it as there had been lots of second/third hand information. The budget for next year has not been set yet and will not be confirmed until May when there is a full governing body meeting, therefore no final decisions have been made about staffing yet. There are forty-four fewer children on the roll than when EF started at the school (Sept 2021), equating to the school's annual budget being reduced by £150,000 each year since 2022. This is an area-wide problem and indeed, there are seven forms of entry worth of places empty locally. This in turn affects the amount of money the school receives and inevitably leads to cuts. For example, there are not as many support staff, the SLT are teaching in the classroom and the new Business Manager will only be working three days a week, rather than 5. This does, of course, then slow down

response times to emails/queries for the SLT. The PTA generously fund trips and fund raise tirelessly but it sadly only goes so far. This is not just a Redbourn problem, you only have to watch the news to see that nationally budgets are being slashed. As parents we can help by promoting the school to others and supporting PTA events. As a school they are taking over after-school childcare from September 2025 and looking to further provide wraparound childcare for nursery age children in the future if they can as, put bluntly, this is where money can be earned. Mr Stevenson works at Redbourn in two capacities - ASL Education provider (after school clubs x 5 days) and as a PE coach (4 days). ASL will continue to provide after school and holiday clubs and there are no plans to change that. AB clarified that PE will still continue and as part of his role Mr Stevenson has been training staff to deliver good quality PE, as per the Sports Premium guidelines. As pupil numbers have dropped, so too has the Sports Premium funding. PT said that there had been comments about PE not happening as and when it should. CW - as a PE coach herself, sometimes things have to be rearranged due to sporting fixtures/timetable changes and PE has to shift in the school timetable, but there will still be a PE session. EC - we have been spoilt by having a fulltime dedicated PE teacher. AB - lots of schools don't have one or have a PE apprentice, who is at the start of their teaching journey, so not yet qualified and therefore not skilled in delivering but cheaper.

VK gave her thanks to the group for dealing with the WhatsApp traffic over this issue and reiterated that we should all feel free to direct parents to the school to raise issues in an appropriate manner. All agreed to resend the WhatsApp Code of Conduct to parents for note. EF - happy to arrange a meeting to explain the reasoning behind any future decisions made, once they have actually been made as the school still working on Year End and initial budget discussions.

We then moved on to other business from the parent survey questions. Regarding reports, 60% of parents said the children's comments are positive and reports in general are well-received.

Twitter/X was 50% to keep in general, with an additional 20% wishing to keep it for school residential trips. EF - thinking about creating a group in yr 5 for Young Mariners and then keeping it for PGL in yr 6 and then disbanding once children leave the school. JM - now there are more photos in the newsletter, Twitter/X is not so vital. EF - we could make sure there is a photo of each class in the newsletter weekly. If trips or special events also include a stack of photos.

JM - let's finish with a roundup of things to celebrate.

LW - there has been a positive change in events for the PTA. JM - agreed. The holiday challenges are good as they are easily accessible and great that they have been based around physical activity and not requiring lots of equipment or junk modelling!

CW - World Book Day was excellent. Nice that children still get to dress up as she knows some schools have moved away from character dress up. AB - the costume

sale was useful for that too. CW - especially posting available items on class WhatsApp if you weren't able to make it. All agreed Professor Pango Mango is fantastic and even gets the yr5/6 kids engaged in Book Week activities.

MM - the music outside at lunchtimes has proved a big hit. EF - yes, the purchase of a sound system for Lower School was definitely a good decision. Nice to see groups of children dancing and learning new routines.

AC - SATs prep has gone well and the meeting for yr 6 parents regarding this and PGL was excellent last week. LW - children seem relaxed about the whole thing. All parents with yr 6 children were in agreement that the RSE meeting on a different day was unnecessary. The information given could have been added as a slide at the end of the SATs/PGL meeting. EF noted these suggestions for next year.

EF - thank you as always for attending and giving input. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday 13th June.