

Minutes for the PFG meeting 13th June 2025

In attendance

Emma Fenn(EF) - Headteacher
Suzie Birchwood (SB) - Governor
Jo Medcraft(JM) - Chair and Rep for Sycamore Class (Yr6)
Marie McGrath(MM) - Rep for Lime Class (Reception) and PTA
Charlotte Watson(CW) - Rep for Beech Class (Yr 1)
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)

Apologies

Sarah Hudson(SH) - Rep for Willow Class (Reception)
Rick Wilson(RW) - Rep for Maple Class (Yr2)

JM welcomed all and said it was nice to finish the year with mainly positive feedback.

EF agreed that there were lots of positives to take away and thanked all PFG reps for attending and promoting the school. EF thanked JM for acting as Chair for the last two years and welcomed LM as the new Chair going forward. JM to liaise with LM re duties.

Two things which caught the eye of EF were the positive feedback about the PTA activities and about the Pantry. She will feed those back to the appropriate people. There was also mention of an increase in provision of clubs, which is something we have discussed previously at PFG.

JM - lots of praise for the Ofsted result and the staff, which she hoped would be passed on.

EF - many thanks and she would definitely pass on the praise to all.

EF - the chicks seemed to be a hit in the lower years. PT - any chance that older years could maybe have a look at them as many pupils would be interested. EF - logisitically difficult as they are inside the classrooms which are busy already. But she will bear that in mind for the future.

EF - positive feedback about SATs and preparation for them.

LW - children seemed really relaxed and well prepared. JM - the SATs breakfast was definite winner. AC - the general transition from year 5 to year 6 was really positive and smooth compared to when her older daughter was in school. EF - that's good to hear. The current year 5 teachers have been year 6 teachers previously so know how best to prepare the children. The big jump now seems to be from year 4 to year 5. Will feedback to upper school teams. EC - the meet the teacher introduction in September was good as it covered 4/5/6 and meant for those with children in two year groups only had one meeting to attend.

PT - The French festival was very good. The children performed confidently.

EF - It was great to see widespread acknowledgement of the staff who attended the residential trips with yr5/6. The school is aware of the cost to parents of having two trips and will possibly consult parents as to whether both are offered going forward.

JM - It is good that where possible trips and costs are announced in September for the whole academic year as this helps parents to budget/plan. Also nice to see more outings around the village and the continued use of History Off The Page in school which is generously funded by the PTA.

EF - Regarding staffing, the good news is that the school is fully staffed for September. Sadly male teachers are few and far between, so whilst it would be great to recruit male teachers, they just aren't there!

Other points raised.

SG - the newsletter is great. It's clear and precise and lovely to have pictures of individual year groups appearing.

EF - working on increasing interhouse and friendly sports events. CW is kindly helping with this.

EF - Re Eco-Council. Sadly there is currently no staff lead on this but they are trying to get this sorted and then the meetings can start up again.

EF - thoughts on races at sports day. MM - maybe think about introducing races that are not just about speed! LW - could you maybe change the running order so it's not slowest group to fastest group but a random order. JM - It is great that the children are now running with children of similar ability - thanks to Mr Stevenson for organising the heats for that. Regarding other races, the children take part in a carousel of activities leading up to Sports Day, which takes place during the school day, but maybe parents aren't aware of that. LM - maybe more information could be given to parents and some pictures posted.

EF - regarding more detail in reading records. Will raise at the school improvement planning meeting but it is tricky to provide detailed written reports in every child's reading record whilst continuing to provide the quality teaching at the same time. Reading and writing will be a big focus in the next academic year.

AC - Maybe posters could be placed in classroom windows displaying the books being used for each year group. It is on the website but a poster to glance at is more in your face!

MM - Monster phonics has been a great addition to the school. Her daughter is flying along with it. Another scheme would only confuse things.

AC - The enterprise scheme for Year 6 is a fun idea. It's good for them to have something to focus on as well as the end of year production, especially for those who aren't as keen on drama! EF - also brings in PSHE as they talk about money and budgeting.

EF - Sharing assemblies will be staying during the school day. Evening is tricky as children are tired and there is also the fact that some children would not come back, thus missing out on all the hard work they had put in. LW - school does its best by giving out dates as far in advance as is possible to enable planning.

EF - Regarding rewards for house points it was the children who voted for non-uniform. Will revisit in September and ask children for their input again.

MM - sending out the email regarding class mixing earlier was a great idea. It gives parents more time to digest the information. LG - agreed that it was a positive email and added that the timing of telling the children last year was good as they came out smiling and that eased parents' anxiety. EF - it is often harder for the parents but school puts a lot of thought into it.

PT - Will teachers stay with their current year groups? EF - nothing set in stone but will try and keep it as stable as possible.

LG - Is there any more information about the new afterschool club? EF - there will be something in this weeks newsletter and more detailed information will follow in the coming weeks.

EF - Nice to see lots of positive comments about the PTA and the activities. The Christmas Emporium worked better this year following feedback from the previous year. MM - the after

school Winter Warmer was a hit. The PTA will make sure more detailed information is given out in the run up. LW - World Book Day costume sale was a fab idea and took away a lot of stress and cost. MM - plans for a Christmas jumper sale at the Winter Warmer. CW - a silent disco sounds like an excellent idea. EF - has contact with a DJ who could supply the necessary equipment. Will liaise with PTA. LW - scavenger hunt was a good way to get out of the house for a couple of hours at very little cost. AC - people like to know what their money is going towards. It might encourage parents to dig a bit deeper if they knew that such and such an event was raising money for X, Y and Z. MM - totally agree. It's an easy thing to do to let parents know what their money is being used for specifically. Will take the suggestions for activities back to PTA and discuss. EF - many thanks for coming and supporting the PFG and the school.