

**Parent Council Meeting
Monday 2 October 2023**

Year group	Class	Parent rep 1 name	Parent rep 2 name
Nursery	Bears	Hollie Appleton (Ted)	
Reception	Tigers	Joanne Pereira (Alice)	Kathryn White (Olly)
Year 1	Lemurs	Rebecca Stoop (Franca)	
Year 2	Pandas	Kathryn White (Annabella)	Rachel Costello (Ava)
Year 3	Leopards	Sophie Andersen (Lily)	Jo Atkin (Tilly)
Year 4	Lions	Rachel Fleetwood (Imogen)	Gabrielle McEwen (Isla)
Year 5	Wolves	Abby Denton (Summer)	Emma Butler (Lacey)
Year 6	Eagles	Sarah Lailey (Elsie)	
SENCO		Caireen Reed (George)	Rachel Costello (Leo)

Present: Sophie Andersen, Hollie Appleton, Jo Atkinson, Emma Butler, Rachel Costello, Abby Denton, Rachel Fleetwood, Sarah Lailey, Emma Parish, Caireen Reed, Kathryn White

Apologies: Gabrielle McEwen, Joanne Pereira

Forest School

EP gave an update on the Forest School. Scofell have now quoted for the work to prepare the land and ESP have confirmed the quote for the play equipment. The BSA have approved the funds to pay for these. EP to follow up to arrange for work to begin, it can take place during term time and will ideally begin as soon as possible. EP and RF to draft an update for the weekly newsletter to update parents.

Fence

EP gave an update on the plans to put up a fence along the footpath from the wooden gate to the path up to the Lemurs' fence. The local authority have agreed the work is needed and have sent plans, EP has arranged a follow up meeting to confirm details and to ask for advice on continuing the plans to apply to re-route the footpath. As the work is anticipated to cost more than £10,000 it will be funded by the local authority. EP to keep the Parent Council updated and will then communicate with parents when details are confirmed.

BSA update

CR gave an update following the AGM held on 27 September. Fundraising and donations during the last school year raised just over £9,000. Events and fundraising planned for this term include BasFest (Friday 8 September); travelling book fair (EP confirmed the school will use the money raised to buy fiction books suitable once children have moved on from Monster Phonics and for science, history and geography books to support learning);

MacMillan coffee morning (Friday 29 September); Cauliflower Cards for Christmas cards etc (with thanks to the teachers for turning these round so quickly); Sing Up refreshments, spooky disco and bake sale (Friday 20 October); bingo evening (Friday 3 November); Christmas wreath making (Saturday 25 November); refreshments at the nativity performances and photos (EP to confirm dates with CR to arrange) and Christmas fete (Friday 8 December, including a raffle). EP suggested a donations day where each class is asked to bring in something for the Christmas fete (chocolate, wine etc). There will also be a push to get people to sign up to easyfundraising.

Classes:

Bears

Parent feedback included:

- Requests for clarification of ratios and staffing to all parents and how extra support required by some children affects the structure of staffing.
- Requests for clarification about updates on Dojo and Tapestry.
- Suggestion that there should be communication about the structure of the week for children and information about termly topics.
- Use of language around unkind hands - could the approach and language used around this be explained to all parents to enable them to use the same at home?
- Need for more information about the voluntary contribution requested for STEAM week.

EP will follow up directly with Bears parents on specific issues raised in the feedback questionnaire.

Tigers

Parent feedback:

- There was some parent feedback that there could be improved communication (especially for new parents) regarding PE kits, snacks and after school clubs.
- There was positive feedback about the Year 6 buddy system with Tigers, with the kindness of Year 6 children being noted as well as the fact that it helps the new children settle in.

Lemurs

There was positive feedback about the great welcome on the gate every day by teachers.

Pandas

Parent feedback included:

- Several parents queried the balance of time that Mr Uphill would be spending as class teacher given his new role of teaching PE to the whole school. EP confirmed this will be clarified in the weekly newsletter to parents.
- There had also been several comments regarding an assembly by Reverend Grant which had involved some children throwing skittles and attempting to catch them in their mouths and the potential choking risks of this. EP confirmed that all teachers would be talking to classes that day to follow this up.
- Parking (see below).

- A query was raised around the KS1 football club stopping because of low take up and issues with bookings. It was suggested there should be a date by which sign ups should take place.
- One comment asked for improved response times in email communication by parents to the headteacher. EP explained that she will always aim to acknowledge an email promptly, even if a quick initial reply to explain that she will reply again in detail later. Class reps were also asked to remind parents if they have an urgent question or comment then they can come into reception to discuss or ask for it to be followed up. One of the responsibilities for class reps is to be aware of what issues are suitable for discussion by Parent Council and what issues are better placed for parents to discuss directly with the school (which initially should be to class teachers and then to the head of school).
- It was suggested that in larger classes there should be three star of the weeks, to ensure all children are included throughout the year.

Leopards

Parent feedback included:

- A query was raised over the level of support for events like STEAM week where the school asks for voluntary contributions to enable the events to take place. EP confirmed that responses are generally good. A letter sent by Parent Council last school year explaining why the school asks for such contributions had a positive effect in improving such donations and it was agreed to resend it (RF/SA/SL to follow up).
- Delays in releasing children at the end of the school day were discussed with the possibility of children coming out onto the playground in their classes before being dismissed to parents being raised. EP said that staff will look into this.
- Several parents queried a lack of communication at the start of term, confirming date and timings of first day of term, which could have been useful and welcoming.
- There is some ongoing parent confusion over the roles of EP and MC.

Lions

Parent feedback included:

- It would have been helpful to have been informed of a required reading book during the summer holidays to enable parents to purchase and children to start reading in advance of the school year. EP noted. It was then discussed that parents could donate such books to the school once finished with to enable other children to use them.
- It was also suggested that more notice could have been given regarding speeches for school council to allow children more time to plan what they could say. EP noted.
- Some parents have queried that where the children sit in the class room is changed each week and that some children are then able to say they don't want to sit where they have been placed whereas others aren't. EP explained that this is due to the needs of some children. It was suggested that the positives of moving places be clearly explained to the class to help them understand the reasons for doing so.

Wolves

No feedback.

Eagles

Parent feedback was positive about the residential trip, especially for the regular Dojo updates for parents. Communication before the trip could have been better for some parents to enable them to explain to anxious children exactly what was happening and where they were going. EP noted.

Parking

There were several comments in the parent feedback questionnaire and feedback to class reps about difficulties with parking since the term started with the change to one drop off and one pick up time. This has led to the nearby roads getting very busy and concerns about safety, especially at pick up time. There were also instances of cars being parked on junctions affecting visibility and parked cars blocking residents' driveways, leading to complaints to the school. Alternatively, several parents expressed the view that despite the challenges with parking, this was preferable to the staggered drop off and pick up times. The meeting discussed how alternative places to park should be made clear to all parents, including the pub, the village hall and the church car parks, to reduce the numbers parking on Emery Acres or Aldworth Road. Parents would also be reminded about responsible parking. EP would follow up to communicate this to parents.

Inclusion group

Some members of Parent Council have set up a WhatsApp inclusion group, for any parents or staff who would like to join. The group is a supportive, safe and confidential space to discuss inclusion issues. SL will draft a message which class reps can forward to let people know about the group.

Meetings

To enable as many parents to attend and fitting in with EP's diary, it was decided that meetings could take place on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays and would either be after drop off or before pick up.

Dates for the rest of the year:

Tuesday 7 November 2.30pm
Wednesday 17 January 8.50am
Monday 26 February 2.30pm
Tuesday 23 April 2.30pm
Wednesday 5 June 8.50am
Monday 1 July 8.50am