

Parent Forum meeting minutes  
Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2026

<p>1. Welcome and apologies</p>	<p>Present: Mrs Rackham (BJS DH), Mrs Fletcher, (BIS DH), DJ (Rhino Class rep), TA (Hippo Class rep), NC (Kiwi Class rep), AK (Otter and Pangolin Class rep), CK (Penguin Class rep), KB (Narwhal Class rep), NW (Turtle Class rep) Apologies: JF (Chair of Governors), CJ (Albatross Class rep), AO (Koala Class rep), NF (Ocelot), LB (Panda Class rep)</p>
<p>2. Questions/queries raised:</p>	
<p>1. Do the children have to wear waterproof trousers for forest school? A couple of the parents seemed to prefer to clean their children rather than clothing.</p> <p>2. The state and cleanliness of the toilets - children not going to the toilet all day as they say they are dirty and smelly. Due to children's ages and stages of development, I don't think it's appropriate for the toilets to be unisex.</p> <p>3. The paving slabs outside the year 4 classroom need fixing/repairing, it's dangerous as some of the slabs are raised and kids have tripped on them a few times. On top of this please could the school consider paving more of that area as there is not really adequate room especially for those with pushchairs etc. when the weather is poor it's very muddy so more paving would be helpful.</p> <p>4. Have the school dinner suppliers changed anything? There have been a few complaints about not liking the food. Lunchtime portion sizes are too small and children have been coming home really hungry from not having enough food.</p>	<p>1. If they have waterproof clothing they will be asked to put it on. If a parent choose not to send in waterproof clothing, that is their choice. All children should have a spare pair of clothes in school, in case they get wet or muddy. There was a message in the newsletter recently about this, please have a read. During the meeting a parent rep asked if pupils have to wear trousers or can they wear shorts? There are children who won't wear trousers to school who then don't want to put on waterproof trousers. There is nothing that says a child can't wear shorts to forest school. Again, this is a parent's choice.</p> <p>2 &amp; 3. We are aware, as are governors, there are plans in the future to help fix this for children, staff and parents and we will let you know these plans as soon as we are able.</p> <p>4. Nothing has changed from the suppliers including the menu and the portion sizes. The food is still of a very good quality. However, if you have an issue with the lunches, please speak to your class teacher as they can deal with this individually. The children can have leftovers if they ask. Please also have a conversation with your child about whether they are eating all their lunch because some children do throw their lunch away so they can go out to play quicker. There are staff members supervising but occasionally, a child does</p>

<p>5. Could pegs be put in the locker room for the children's coats. The items in the locker are getting wet and the coat doesn't dry out when in the locker.</p> <p>6. The reading blog for us is a no go. I read with my child and they will read to themselves but to do a blog about it is daunting for them &amp; they just don't enjoy it.</p> <p>7. Forest School - I was told that their class missed out on a session because not everyone has wellies. Is this the case? Are our children's wellies used by other classes? My daughter has been unable to find hers and they are named.</p> <p>8. Pen licences - why have they been taken away from some children with no prior warning or parents spoken to?</p> <p>9. Some parents are unhappy about the Mother's Day cards being a chargeable card to receive and not having one made in school and bought home.</p>	<p>manage to slip past without them noticing. There is optional bread, salad, fruit and dessert too.</p> <p>5. This has been raised before and there is a plan in place to replace a set of lockers with pegs each year. It will be a rolling programme as budgets allow. Year 3's lockers have already been replaced.</p> <p>6. As children become confident in reading, the focus moves from fluency to comprehension. The children need to be able to reflect, question and form opinions around their reading. The blogs give them the opportunity to use reading and writing skills to develop their reading journey. If this is a daunting task for your child it would be good if you could sit together to write it. If this is an individual issue, please speak to the class teacher.</p> <p>7. Recently, the weather has been particularly bad so there have been times where the activities have been inside. However, if a large number of children do not have wellies, then Mrs Steward can't take them out. We do have a few spares but not enough for lots of children. We do not encourage them to share each other's. We cannot leave the children who don't have wellies in the classroom with another member of staff because the activities Mrs Steward does often need close supervision and therefore an additional adult.</p> <p>8. Children work really hard to get these and are, quite rightfully proud of them. When we award them, we do say to the children that they need to continue with their high standards of handwriting. Where licences have been taken, children should have received prior warning and support to improve before it is taken away.</p> <p>9. This was an idea from the PTFA as an optional fundraiser, simply to offer families the chance to purchase a keepsake featuring their child's art work, if they wished. This feedback has been passed on to the PTFA. The Infant school children will still make a card to bring home as usual.</p>
<p>Other points parent reps brought up at the meeting.</p>	<p>1. A parent rep raised a lack of communication about a couple of different things. New spelling sheets came home with the children and parents weren't told what to do with it and whether it had to be returned to school or not. When cricket sessions happened recently, the children had to tell their parents that they needed to wear their PE kits to school.</p>

2. When are the children allowed to drink? After a lesson input and at lunchtime. These are the sorts of questions the class teacher can be asked.
3. A message went out to the Year 1 parents about children only being allowed to bring in things they've made for show and tell. LF clarified that this is not the case. Children can bring in home learning that they've done that's related to the class topic but that is it. There is not time for show and tell and when children bring things into school, it causes problems. The children do have opportunities to talk about the things they've done outside of school.
4. A concern was raised about Infant School pupils going over to the Junior School at playtimes on their own. This is not the case, the whole of the school site is supervised by staff from both schools. They also wear high visibility jackets so that the children can spot them easily if they need help. The children love playing across the whole site. If an individual parent has an issue with this, they can speak to their child's class teacher.
5. The daily superstars can't be seen by the parents/carers of Hippo Class. LF suggested a parent takes a photo and puts it in the WhatsApp group each day. This is what happens in Rhino Class.
6. Is Mrs Gibbon returning to teach Hippo Class? Information cannot be shared about this as yet but it will be shared soon.
7. The Reception teachers put weekly updates on Arbor for parents which is really useful, could this happen in other year groups?
8. When booking clubs, it wasn't obvious when a club had been successfully booked, can this be looked into?
9. A parent rep suggested some sort of matting outside Reception to extend the path. We will raise this with Mr Reed and Mr Meads.
10. By World Book Day, the shops have often run out of the free books. Can WBD vouchers come out early? Absolutely, we have them so will send them out before WBD.

<p>3. Information/updates/queries from the schools</p> <p>1. What do you think about parent volunteers taking photos of children to post in the WhatsApp groups on school trips?</p> <p>2. Have you heard any feedback about the teachers' automatic email response?</p> <p>3. Positive feedback that was sent in for this agenda was forwarded straight on to staff members, thank you for this.</p> <p>4. A lot of questions came in late for this meeting so they haven't made it to the agenda. Please can parents be reminded that there is a deadline to give parent reps time to collate all of the responses and email them into us and also for Mrs Rackham and Mrs Fletcher to have time to speak to appropriate staff members about the things.</p> <p>5. We previously spoke about the school photos. Do you parents definitely want the children to be in rows rather than groups? We have also asked for the photographers to take more photos for parents to choose from and they're going to use different backgrounds. We are sticking with the same company because the pricing is competitive and they give the school commission as well as photo books for the Year 6s when they leave.</p>	<p>1. Parent reps felt this was ok as long as parents know these photos can't be shared outside of the group. Parents like the communication they get from the volunteers when they are on trips for example, a message to say they've arrived safely or they're on the way back. We asked parent reps to ask parents/carers via a poll on their WhatsApp groups.</p> <p>2. No</p> <p>5. In the meeting a rep also raised the issue of their children being made to look the same height in their sibling photo. We will ask the admin team to pass this onto the photography company too.</p>
<p>4. Date, time and location of the next meeting.</p>	<p>Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 2:15pm in the Infant School hall.</p>