

Parent Forum meeting minutes
Tuesday 18th November 2025

<p>1. Welcome and apologies</p>	<p>Present: Mrs Rackham (BJS DH), Mrs Fletcher, (BIS DH), NW (Turtle Class rep), SO (Rhino Class rep), AO (Koala Class rep), KV (Hippo Class rep), MP (Kingfisher Class rep), AK (Otter and Pangolin Class rep), KB (Narwhal Class rep), SI (Jaguar Class rep), CJ (Albatross Class rep), CK (Penguin Class rep), D (Rhino Class rep), JF (Chair of governors) Apologies: NF (Ocelot Class rep), LB (Panda Class rep), TA (Hippo Class rep)</p>
<p>2. Questions/queries raised:</p>	
<p>School photos - a lot of parents in the group were unhappy with the photos of their children. It was mentioned that there had been talk in previous years to change providers, and so they'd like to bring this to the table again.</p>	<p>We can raise this with the office but as we have previously mentioned, there is not a lot of competition. The offices will look into this for next year.</p>
<p>Dairy free alternatives - often there is no dairy free/gluten free alternative at lunch for pudding or milk in class, and so some kids go with nothing. What can parents provide (and when/how often) so nobody is left out?</p> <p>Lunches repetitive although the quality is better – Option for a sandwich?</p>	<p>Children that need dairy free alternative milk do need to bring this in from home. Usually this is a bigger carton so the staff can use it throughout the week. At lunch time, they have a dairy-free ice-cream on a Monday and dairy-free cakes on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. The only gluten-free dessert is the ice-cream. Fruit is sent as an alternative.</p> <p>The staff in the kitchen at Bedgrove are happy for parents to contact them directly about any allergies. For their contact details, please ask our office staff</p>
<p>I'm a very worried about the children being allowed to go to the junior school at play time and being able to access their classrooms too. I'd like to know what kind of supervision is available for them at this time.</p>	<p>Y1 are kept at the Infant school until half term and then, at lunchtime only, they are allowed to access the whole site but not into classrooms. No children are allowed in any classrooms at lunchtime as there are no adults in there to supervise them.</p> <p>There are at least 5 members of staff out on duty, wearing high-viz jackets so the children know who to talk to if they are worried/lost. If you would like your child to be kept at the Infant school, you just need to raise this with the class teacher.</p>
<p>The Junior school playground and entrance to after school club is very dark. Are there some lights that are not working or are additional lights required?</p>	<p>We have spoken to Mr Meads and he is aware. It is on his plan to get some lighting in this area.</p>
<p>Can lines be painted near the year 3 and 6 exit so each day at the end of the day each class has an assigned line to be dismissed from as it can be absolute chaos and quite overwhelming trying to</p>	<p>We have spoken to Y6 staff and they have decided to trial dismissing their classes from the old Y5 doors on the playground (the doors near the large welly rack outside Y4/Y5). This will</p>

<p>find your child and especially when the year 6 come out and they all gather talking it's really hard to try and spot your child and for your child to see you. Perhaps each line is a different colour and each class has an assigned colour.</p>	<p>mean that Y3 only will be dismissed from the area near the bike sheds. Could the Y6 reps, please pass this on to parents in the groups – we will start this from 24th November.</p>
<p>Lockers regularly broken, fixed and then broken again-not able to open/shut them properly. Is there a plan to get this permanently resolved?</p>	<p>A set of lockers is about £3,000 so we have a plan to move back to pegs to eliminate the issue with broken lockers.</p>
<p>Could you mention that Arbor messaging isn't ideal when you have more than one child in junior and infant school. Having to log in and out. It's also easy to miss messages. For example, a message was sent via junior school as cross country was cancelled but I didn't see the notification as was logged into infants so I missed the message and ended up getting a call from school.</p>	<p>We are aware of this issue and we are looking into it. If you have turned on your notifications for the Arbor app, you should receive notifications regardless of whether you are logged in or not. This should mean it doesn't matter if you have more than one child in the schools. A class rep suggested letting class reps know so that they can send a message out.</p>
<p>Swimming-not had any feedback with what the children are doing. It would be helpful to know what the children have been doing, any achievements such as how far they can swim etc.</p>	<p>We have asked Aqua Vale for this information for the last couple of years. Mr Hearn said at the end of each term the instructors let him know how far each child has swam and what strokes they have achieved. He is going to chase them for this information and will get it out to parents.</p>
<p>Is the school policy still that bikes & scooters should be dismounted, on school grounds? If so a reminder to all would be good.</p>	<p>It is school policy that children or adults should not be riding their bikes or scooters on the playground at the beginning or the end of the day. Can you please send a polite reminder in your WhatsApp groups. We will put a reminder in next week's newsletter.</p>
<p>Check/Provide us login for reading eggs</p>	<p>We have decided not to continue with Reading Eggs as the uptake was very poor, despite the efforts of class teachers to promote the use of it.</p>
<p>Start handing over practice worksheets for Maths and English</p>	<p>Our home-learning policy is very simple; read with your child 5 times a week, practice times tables, spellings and complete one of the activities on the termly newsletter. This focuses on the key skills the children need.</p> <p>In Y6 the expectation is increased and the children have additional, weekly home-learning to complete. This is built up over the year so that they feel prepared for the transition.</p>
<p>I'm hoping they could offer a little more variety in after school clubs. There didn't seem to be anything that wasn't sport except for choir as an option. Previously they have offered Lego club,</p>	<p>We are reliant on staff volunteering their time to run these. We are one of few schools who continue to offer these for free. We can therefore only offer what people are happy to run. We will</p>

<p>forest school etc. Something creative would be good!</p>	<p>look to see if there is anyone willing to run something more creative in the Spring Term.</p>
<p>Could the posters the Y6's make for the enterprise fair be sent to parents so they are aware of what is available to help their children make decisions on what they can / can't have. And how much money to take in? Can the options also be healthy, e.g. no coke?</p>	<p>Yes, these are all good points and we do need to think carefully about what the Y6 children decide to sell. We will pass this over to the Y6 staff so that they can take this on board for next year.</p>
<p>Many in Y5&6 unhappy with the new online reading records. Feel it steering the children to social media type behaviour i.e. friend requests & liking. Told if choose not to use it an old-style book can be given but it won't get checked so seems pointless to fill in.</p>	<p>We feel that this format encourages the children to develop positive online behaviours, in a safe space. The site and all entries are monitored by the teacher and posts cannot be made, unless the teacher has read and authorised them. The children speak of this positively and encourages them to share books. We needed to look into changing the process for Y5&6 to encourage reading.</p>
<p>Can I ask you to put forward why the children are no longer allowed to bring books from home to read? Surely any reading during quiet times is better than none at all? Thank you.</p>	<p>Children are allowed to bring in books from home. However, there has been a discussion in some classes about the suitability of books that had been brought in. In all year groups, we encourage children to read a variety of texts. There is a place for all books but, in school, the children are encouraged to read books that are challenging for them.</p>
<p>Would be good to see class Xmas performances back. Been a few years since ours have done an assembly/show.</p>	<p>There will be some form of Christmas Show/Activity in all year groups. The dates for these will be shared very soon, if they have not already gone out.</p>
<p>No apps to help with the 11+. Is there another app that could be offered now there is no Reading Eggs?</p>	<p>A school's responsibility is only to administer the 11+. We are not actually allowed to help the children with the test in anyway.</p>
<p>The fence next to the gate by the Year 4 entrance is loose.</p>	<p>We will let Mr Meads know.</p>
<p>Parents would like a half pick-up time at after school club.</p>	<p>We will raise this with the After School Club.</p>
<p>3. Information/updates/queries from the schools 1. Teachers' automatic email response.</p>	<p>When sending an email to the class email accounts, would parents be offended if they got an automatic email that said something along the lines of 'just a reminder that this email account is only checked once a week.'? Parents are using these email addresses to send information that we need to know on the day, for example if their child is not in school. Parent reps think this is a good idea.</p>

4. Date, time and location of the next meeting.	Thursday 26 th February at 2:15pm in the Infant School hall.
---	---