

Parent Forum meeting minutes
Thursday 15th May 2025

<p>1. Welcome and apologies</p>	<p>Present: Mrs Rackham (BJS DH), Mrs Fletcher, (BIS DH), JF (Chair of Governors), LO (Turtle Class parent), AK (Koala and Narwhal Class rep), CK (Kingfisher Class rep), VS (Ocelot Class rep), AO (Hippo Class rep), MP (Kiwi Class rep), CJ (Otter and Jaguar Class rep) Apologies: LB (Turtle Class rep), KB (Penguin Class rep), SI (Pangolin Class rep), NW (Albatross Class rep)</p>
<p>2. Questions/queries raised:</p>	
<p>Rhino class: The dates for other year trips seem to be in the newsletter, are reception having one this year? It was mentioned on an earlier newsletter about a zoo trip. If so, do we have a date planned?</p>	<p>1. We are still working on a date for the trip to MK museum; they've been quite hard to get hold of. Staff have decided to do just the trip to the museum as going to the zoo as well would be too much.</p>
<p>Hippo class: 1. Screen Time and Usage in class and lunch. I'm being told that they watch quite a few episodes of things during the day. Not educational things but tv shows like Bluey, Spidey, etc and more recently I've been told that they even have it on during lunch. Surely this is the time for the children to talk to their peers and eat their lunch instead of being distracted by tv. I'd appreciate some clarification on this. 2. What has happened to the two outings that haven't been scheduled? (Zoo and MK Museum) 3. The transition from Mrs Gibbon to Mrs Wilks seems to have gone well, we appreciate the school's efforts to make it easier on the children.</p>	<p>1. We have trialled putting on something for the children to watch in the hall once they'd finished eating their lunch. Once the children have finished eating, they are very loud and we've tried lots of different strategies. Due to the staff in Early Years needing a lunchbreak, the children have to stay in the hall for half an hour but lots of them are now finishing much sooner than that. We are continuing to think of ways to solve this issue. Teachers may occasionally pop something on the screen in the classroom but this should happen rarely. We can check in with teachers to make sure this isn't happening often. There are some videos and programmes we use such as Numberblocks which are linked to our curriculum. We also sometimes play stories online such as the Julia Donaldson ones or bedtime stories on BBC iPlayer. 2. We are still working on a date for the trip to MK museum; they've been quite hard to get hold of. Staff have decided to do just the trip to the museum as going to the zoo as well would be too much.</p>
<p>Kiwi class: No points were raised before the meeting.</p>	
<p>Koala class: 1. Could Inset days be grouped into one week? That way families could go away say in June for the week like some other schools do. 2. Would the school consider running a holiday club during the summer either internally or an external company for parents struggling with child care. 3. Please can the children change their reading book more than once a week, a lot of parents feel</p>	<p>1. This isn't as simple as it sounds and would mean no training for staff throughout the year which we think is vital. We have given an extra INSET day in September so we come back later. Families should be able to get a slightly cheaper holiday that week! 2. We have worked with external providers previously, and if we were approached by a provider, we would be more than happy for them to run a holiday club from the schools. We have been approached, but we are waiting to hear back</p>

<p>the same on this. Children are bored of reading the same book all week to the point parents are going out and buying a lot more books and writing the home books in.</p> <p>Also, a lot remember they used to be able to change them far more frequently and older children were free readers by this point.</p>	<p>from them. External providers we have worked with previously didn't get enough take-up and unfortunately, they had to pull out.</p> <p>3. If your child can read 95% of their reading book without blending the words, please let your child's class teacher know so they can be given a different book. Little Wandle is very prescriptive about reading books that are sent home, one reading book which we read with them in school first and a reading for pleasure book. We understand but, the focus should be on fluency. They shouldn't be a free reader before leaving the Infant School, they still have lots to learn! This may have happened before the changes that were made to the reading and Phonics curriculum. LF will look into the reading spine for Year 1 as this would be an extra book for the more able readers to bring home.</p>
<p>Otter class:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. School trips have been great. Could it be advised that children bring a small rucksack for the trips to carry their lunches as the paper bags that are supplied by the lunch company fall apart in minutes. Whilst carrier bags are ok they're too big normally for the children to carry themselves. 2. Mrs Batts has been a fabulous teacher. She's been really approachable and has always raised any concerns about my child with me so we can work out what's wrong. Really appreciate this. 3. Again not sure if this is for the forum or just Mrs Batts. Otters have not been to the library for quite a while. We thought this was meant to be a regular (weekly) thing, but Otters haven't even been monthly. 4. I would just like to say well done to the year 2 team for still taking both classes to Willen lake when Mrs Batts was unexpectedly absent. The children (and at least one adult helper) had a great time. The trip to Waddesdon was also well organised and fun. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This is definitely something we can talk to the staff about and ask them to consider when they're making arrangements for their next trip. The reason we like to take carrier bags is because after lunch, we can throw everything away and then the children don't have anything to carry. 3. This would have been one to speak with Mrs Batts about. LF has spoken with her and she is going to make sure this happens.
<p>Kingfisher class:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Well done to Miss D on nearly completing her teacher training and thank you for her support over the course of the year. 2. Thank you for all the wonderful trips and activities that have been arranged for the class. 3. Thank you to Mrs Hewitt for all the hard work! Hasn't gone un noticed. Attention to detail to class topics is amazing also always supporting the children and celebrating their accomplishments. 	<p>Thank you for this lovely feedback!</p>
<p>Albatross class:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can you raise the lack of after school activity options for year 3. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Years 3 and 4 did have more clubs offered in the autumn term. We have added another club to the list that they can join now if they'd like to. We

<p>2. Can you ask if yr3 are having an activity day. Last I heard it was cancelled but was wondering if an alternative has been found or not.</p> <p>3. Please could children be reminded to apply sun cream after swimming. My child keeps forgetting but happy to apply himself.</p> <p>4. The presence of a teacher/TA at the gate in the morning is much appreciated and I think it helps the kids going in.</p> <p>5. I just want to feedback my appreciation to the parent reps (yourself and the others). I think it's a good idea and helps communication lines.</p>	<p>will try to make sure they are spread out more evenly throughout the next academic year. Over the course of the year, each year group have been offered a similar number of clubs. We are one of the only schools that offers free clubs to our pupils.</p> <p>2. We have been trying to find an alternative but have not been able to find anything that's in budget that's nearby. The admin team have spent a lot of time researching this. For this year there won't be a replacement. If something is found, it will be offered to Years 3 and 4 next year.</p> <p>3. We have reminded staff about this.</p> <p>5. Thank you very much to the parent reps for all you do.</p>
<p>Penguin class:</p> <p>1. Loved the secret reader event!</p>	<p>1. We have reminded teachers that this wasn't just for World Book Day. Please approach your child's class teacher if you would like to be a secret reader.</p>
<p>Narwhal class:</p> <p>1. Instead of bringing sweets in every time it's someone's birthday could we suggest parents donate a new book for the class instead that way they could read it together. And would stop the sibling fights of one having sweets and the others not.</p> <p>2. Please can we look at the lack of after school clubs for year 4. The other years seem to have a lot more on offer.</p>	<p>1. We think this is a great idea, although we wouldn't be able to stop people sending in sweets. We will recommend it to parents for the next academic year. This is something we can pass on to our reading leaders so they can put something in place for September. Suggested creating a wishlist of books for each class for parents to order from.</p> <p>2. See answer for Albatross Class.</p>
<p>Turtle class:</p> <p>1. Lack of clubs on offer for year 4 has been raised by many.</p> <p>2. The rewarding of attendance per house group, the children feel under pressure at times to be in school, even if they're not well, because they don't want to let their friends down, don't agree they should be rewarded for attendance.</p> <p>3. A couple of parents stated they didn't agree with certificates for amount of reading or filling in the reading records and felt it didn't work and that there needed to be alternative ways to encourage reading at home but others strongly disagreed with this.</p> <p>4. The loos still aren't great, will hold off going until home. Children having issues locking the toilet or getting locked in. Boys having to use a cone to keep the door closed?</p> <p>5. More equipment in playground for break - skipping ropes, hoola hoops, balls.</p> <p>6. No glue sticks, apparently no funds - so takes in own. re: Glue sticks and equipment please ask the</p>	<p>These are not the views of all parents in Turtle Class.</p> <p>1. See answer for Albatross Class.</p> <p>2. There isn't an attendance award per house group, the reward is for the team who collects the most house points in a term and the house points aren't given out for attendance. There is a small trophy that's given each week to the class with the highest attendance, no pressure is put on children to be in if they're ill. All classes get excited about this trophy being given out each week in assembly and it tends to be a different class each week. We are really careful with rewards for attendance, we don't do 100% attendance certificates as this is incredibly difficult for some children individually.</p> <p>3. This is something we have always done and it does seem to work for the majority of our pupils. We would be happy to hear alternatives if you have suggestions? Reading is very important and there isn't enough time for teachers to read with children in school, we often rely on volunteers for this. It is therefore really important that parents read with their child at home.</p>

ptfa If they can fund such things as that's what all the fund raising is for.

7. It's seems our year group have missed out on trips since year 1.

8. If the school doesn't have enough equipment for playtime can students take in their own football/ basketball and store it in their classroom until break or lunch?

9. Disappointed nothing was done for VE day.

10. Mrs Smith hasn't been at the school long yet she has done an amazing job of getting to know the children and I really felt after speaking with her at parents evening that she had taken the time to get to know my child and how best to motivate her to learn.

11. Think secret reader is a great idea. This should be a thing occasionally... not just for book day.

12. Is there scope for a parents versus class rounders day at the end of the year? This is something a friends school has done and it has been a great success.

13. The interhouse music competition was a really good event this year, and glad to see more music stuff going on in general.

4. We will check with Mr Meads about the locks. If your child isn't going to the toilet in school please speak to the class teacher because there are other toilets they could use. Please don't wait for the parent forum meetings to raise this, it should be raised with the class teacher immediately. A new urinal has been ordered, we are waiting to hear when a contractor can fit this. The children are encouraged to use other toilets and when asked, the pupils in Turtle Class will tell you they use other toilets.

5. Unfortunately, we buy lots of equipment and it gets broken very quickly. This is partly due to the fact the children don't look after it but also because with 400 children accessing equipment, it doesn't last long. We do replenish it as often as we can but we are also teaching the children to look after it. If parents want to make donations, they can do so at the donation station at the Junior School. A parent rep suggested having a school Amazon wishlist for parents to order from.

6. As you know, we changed our MIS system in the spring term and as a result, we weren't allowed to spend any money for a little while. We tried to order enough resources to cover this period, but we obviously didn't order quite enough. This shouldn't be a problem anymore. There was PVA, they didn't go without glue completely.

7. We have looked into this and the Year 4s have been on the following trips up until this point:

Year 1

07.12.25 Pantomime

27.06.22 Paradise Wildlife park

Year 2

04.10.22 Waddesdon Manor

17.10.22 The Mayor's chambers

08.12.22 Pantomime

20.03.23 Waddesdon Manor

24.04.23 Bucks County Museum

09.06.23 Ashridge House

22.06.23 Holy Trinity Church

17.07.23 West Wittering Beach

Year 3

Pantomime

Residential

Amersham Field Centre

8. There are enough footballs and we regularly pump up netballs and basketballs.

9. This is a fair comment, it was just to do with the timing within a busy term. Some classes did do things but we didn't do anything as a whole school. We take that on board.

	<p>11. Mrs Smith has continued to do secret reader with the class.</p> <p>12. How was this organised at the other school? Was this done with every class? We are concerned about how we could fit this in because the summer term is very busy! We would have to do it with every class. We are happy if people want to share their ideas with us.</p>
<p>Pangolin class: No points were raised before the meeting.</p>	
<p>Panda class: No points were raised before the meeting.</p>	
<p>Ocelot class:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Thank you for arranging the breakfast before the SATs. The kids are so excited. 2. Thank you for the Chessington trip. The class are very excited. 3. If children have grown out of uniform is there a need to buy more for the last few weeks? 4. Bikeability - why are there not more spaces? A lot of children are disappointed that they cannot take part? 5. Thank you for the wonderful time they've had in years 6. The support the kids have had, and how welcome you've made them feel has been greatly appreciated. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. No, don't buy new uniform but please be mindful of what you send your child in wearing. Try to make it blend in as much as possible! 4. This is run by an external company who will only take a certain number of pupils for safety reasons. We can double check as to whether they can offer more sessions.
<p>Jaguar class:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are reading records still being checked as my child's hasn't been checked for quite a few weeks now. I know they have been busy with practice sats, which would take priority, but I wondered if some time could be set aside for this. I also want to thank the year 6 staff for being amazing teachers/TAs. My son always enjoys school and is always thriving to learn more. 2. Mr Simmons has been a great teacher. I appreciated the honest feedback about my child at parents evening, it made feel like he'd actually taken time to know my child. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Year 6 had reading SATs homework and reading diaries are not checked due to this.
<p>Other points parent reps brought up at the meeting.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Can children please take care when using the bike/scooter racks not to knock over anyone else's. - Is there a way of prioritising the children who have been in the choir previously? Children who have been in the choir for a long time haven't got a space this time. - Thank you for the Year 6 breakfast club and the music evening. - Are there sanitary bins in the girls' Year 4 toilets? We will check this.
<p>3. Information/updates/queries from the schools</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Due to disruption to the school day caused by sibling photos, we are thinking about offering a 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Could it be done before school too when they look nice? Parent reps will ask parents for their thoughts.

<p>separate photography session in the Autumn term that will be held after school. This will allow parents to collect their children and then take them to be photographed. It also gives the option of having any younger, pre-school siblings included. The usual individual photos will go ahead as usual. What do the reps think about this?</p> <p>2. Lunches – please ask your children what they would like for lunch and if you receive a slip saying they haven't eaten it, please don't order it again.</p>	<p>2. Parents aren't sure which child didn't eat their lunch when they get a message if they have more than one child.</p>
<p>4. Date, time and location of the next meeting.</p>	<p>Do you want to do a positive meeting to finish off the academic year like we did last year?</p> <p>Thursday 17th July 2025 at 2:25pm in the Infant School hall</p> <p>Please make sure you get some positive feedback from every class, otherwise it's not fair on the staff members in the classes that receive none. If there's not, we will cancel it.</p>