



**PARENT FORUM MEETING MINUTES**  
**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

<b><u>Present:</u></b>	Julie Puxley (KS) Hayley Cordall Sarah Steer Emilie Fisset Elspeth Newman Samantha Mills Tracey Gilder	Kate Brown (KS) Emily Small Gosia Henik Christina Hammond Maddie Dodsworth Catherine Tylke Simon Chivers
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1.	<p><b><u>Apologies</u></b>          Apologies were received from Madi Wilkie</p>
2.	<p><b><u>Introduction to Smartphone free childhood.</u></b>          We welcomed Sophie and Jenn who are parents at RA Butler and are in the process of setting up a local group with the goal of creating a smartphone free childhood in the local area. After a brief introduction they branched off and had a separate meeting with some of our parents who were keen to here more about the initiative.</p>
3.	<p><b><u>School Communications</u></b>          School asked for feedback on the new newsletter lay-out. A rep suggested we look at MailChimp as a option for more user friendly templates and the school will investigate this.</p>
4.	<p><b><u>Fundraising</u></b>          The school reported we were very successful with offers of help for specific requests (such as collecting doughnuts etc) but we still didn't have a core group of parents happy to run events themselves. A comment from a parent requested that events take place on weekends. At present the fete/movie night takes places on a weekday evening as it is primarily staff who help out and Mrs Puxley explained if parents were happy to volunteer to run events on a weekend then she was happy for them to take place however she cannot ask staff to give up their weekends.</p>
5	<p><b><u>Other Comments</u></b>          Squads          We discussed whether it would be possible for the school to inform a child if they had been unsuccessful in gaining a place in a squad. We explored this as a group but decided a parent (who knew the child) was best placed to tell the child. We discussed that most parents try to prepare the child for the fact they may not get in the squad before committing to attending the trial. We also discussed that detailed feedback to each child would be difficult to organise.</p> <p><b>School lunches</b></p>

We discussed if Y6 school lunches could be larger for Year Six children as many complained they were hungry especially on pizza days. We discussed the school eating regulations that schools need to strictly adhere to and there is a difference between the lunch sizes and one parent rep explained that her Mother inspected school dinners and there were strict regulations around portion size.

An infant parent also asked why Parent lunches are only available on Wednesdays and Fridays. This is due to the availability of staff to be able to support this. We will increase days when we can.

### **Reading Mornings**

A parent asked if reading morning could be rotated so it wasn't always on a Friday. Due to staffing levels, intervention groups and assemblies Friday works much better for staff – however we will hold a reading morning on a different day in future on weeks where we aren't in school on a Friday.

### **Residentials**

A comment was raised that parents felt they didn't have enough time to pay the deposit for their child's residential. School have said they will now make parents aware of any planned residentials and rough timings for deposits during the "meet the teacher" event in July so parents are aware when payments will be needed.

### **School Trips/Events**

We understand that some parents have expressed concerns about the need for parent helpers to facilitate trips and events. It's important to note that certain events, like Year 1 Hero Day, are designed in a way that requires assistance from parents to run successfully.

For school trips, the requirement for parent helpers arises due to the higher staff-to-child ratios mandated to ensure safety and supervision. However, as children move into the Junior years, the ratio requirements decrease, which in turn reduces the need for parent helpers.

Occasionally, teachers may specifically invite certain parents to assist. This might be because the parent is a regular school volunteer and has an existing rapport with the children, which can make the experience smoother for everyone involved. School will give dates out for upcoming events with as much notice as they can.

### **Future Club Options/Timetables**

A question was raised about whether club timetables could be shared earlier. The scheduling of clubs and squads is heavily influenced by the tournaments and competitions being planned. Unfortunately, this means we can only release the timetable once these external dates are confirmed.

We'd also like to remind everyone that school clubs and squads are not intended to provide childcare but are designed to offer extracurricular enrichment. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in this matter.

### **Class Floor Books**

A parent asked if they could be available to look at throughout the year. We will make these available on Reading Mornings

### **Update on RACC & the school building**

A parent asked for an update on this. The school is assessed every 3 months by a surveyor who says the existing safety measures are adequate. We are meeting with the DFE in April to discuss future plans.

**World Book Day**

A comment from a parent asked if we could celebrate world book day on the actual day and dress up. This comment has been passed on – however also get complaints from parents when we do dress up! We try to vary the events and activities that we do to please everybody.

**Some other issues were mentioned however these were items which related to individual children rather than whole school issues. Items of this nature should be mentioned to the office so they can be dealt with quickly and effectively.**