



## Minutes for Parent Forum – Thursday, 16th May 2024

**Poverest**  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

### **Present:**

Tommy Roberts (Fir)  
Dave Carter (Birch and Olive)  
Michael Parker (Governor)  
Paul Haylock (Headteacher)  
Haylea Elsey (Cedar)  
Julia Lester (Walnut)  
Jemma Fairbrass (Willow)  
Yesim Gok Koch (Chestnut)  
Ragnav Kapoor (Holly)  
Lena Malkin (Beech)  
Claire Roberts (Elm and Holly)  
Ben Scott (Chestnut)  
Sabera Bham (Hazel)  
Roxanne Hughes (Willow)

### **Apologies:**

Anushka Brown (Fig and Hazel)  
Yogeshwary Ramjattan (Maple and Ash)  
Zoe Western (Maple and Ash)  
Kylie Wood (Elder)

### **Agenda:**

#### **Parent Questions**

1. With what seems like an increase in illnesses and viruses, is it possible to bring hand sanitiser back in classrooms or can the children bring their own?

*There is no more illness than usual. It is common to get colds and flus this time of year. Our attendance is actually better this year than last and that includes the authorised absence - which is when a child is ill. Children can't bring their own because they all contain different ingredients and we have to have a sheet for every liquid in the building. Every classroom has a sink and soap and washing hands is just as effective.*



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2. Can there be a classroom or another room except for the toilets that the children to get changed in after the before-school and after-school clubs?

*Most children change in the classroom - using the cupboard section at the back of most rooms. Some do not want to change in the classrooms and so the toilets are offered. There are not any free rooms to use. The before school is more difficult. After school club children can change in the classrooms after the class is dismissed or they can change at lunchtime when the class leaves to eat or play.*

3. The main concern is the safety of children in the road when it's "closed". It seems like there are far too many parents with a pass, has the bar for one been set low, who speed up the road without a second thought a child might run out. Also, the double yellow lines have been put on the wrong side of the road, as parents open doors and unload their cars on the pavement side, which then blocks the pavement allowing people to walk. It's also crazy that people with a blue badge can actually park on the double yellow, meaning cars are still on either side. It's not working how it is at the moment and children cannot walk in the road. It seems just as dangerous as ever.

*We have less passes than ever before. Only the parents with a disability or have a disabled pass are let through - there is currently a temporary pass for a parent who has had a major operation. I believe the issue is more around parents who park before the road closes and we are not allowed to stop them leaving. Legally they can still drive 30mph. However speeding cars can be reported to me and I will speak to them. Despite the road being closed you should still use the path when you can.*

*The yellow lines are not on the wrong side of the road. This is the side that was on the planning permission. The doors should open onto a pavement. Disability badges can park on double yellow lines. That's the law in the UK. Children should walk on the path when they can. The road is closed so that it is safer and if you have to step into the road there is less chance of an accident.*

4. Why is it lacrosse for pe every term? It's quite a niche sport and many parents are complaining that their children don't enjoy it. Maybe there can be variation during the term and not fixed with lacrosse every week?

*Y4 had Lacrosse in the Spring but this has continued. We applied last year for free coaching and we received it. As few schools took up the option of lacrosse we were offered it for free again so we have taken it. Similarly, with the cricket and tennis coaching.*

*The PE scheme of work is not around sports but the skills involved in the sports. In theory you can teach all the invasion games skills just through one sport. We reached the National Final in Lacrosse and this was celebrated by Ofsted. We are right to specialise in certain areas. Most love it but I agree not all do. They have a dance specialist coming in next half term. Hopefully those that don't like Lacrosse will like the dance or the gymnastics they are currently doing.*

5. A question about certain subjects being taught in school, non binary etc. This was brought up last year. I would just like to check that there are still no plans to teach the children this and if so that we get prior warning so we can opt out.

*We teach the national curriculum and follow a government-approved scheme. The PSHE curriculum. The school website has all the curriculum plans on there and the PSHE section has help guides for parents. We don't have lessons on non-binary but children do raise questions in lessons and children's questions can be unpredictable. Identity identification is mainly in Y6. Respect for all is the approach. Religious Studies is always around the main point..some people believe... All the curriculum plans are on the website - if parents wish their child to be removed from a lesson they must write to the headteacher. Parents should be aware that it is the school's legal responsibility to ensure that children are taught all of the national curriculum. Ofsted looked in detail at our curriculum and was very complementary of it.*

6. What is the school policy around removing sport and physical activity opportunities as a 'punishment' for unrelated behaviour incidents? How does this fit in with the



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behaviour policy, restorative justice system and the schools image as an active school?

*Children do not miss sports or any other subject as a punishment. However, if they disrupt the learning in that lesson they may be removed from it as per the behaviour policy. Representing the school in an event (such as a football match) - may be removed but that would always be after a warning. Occasionally children do not attend certain lessons because of a pattern of behaviour - for example, one child always behaved inappropriately in their music lesson so they did not go into that lesson for a while and was slowly reintroduced. Especially around autistic children as the noise can be a trigger.*

7. Regarding the pick and mix homework - How can we identify which homework tasks align with what the students are learning in school? Is there a weekly curriculum for each class that parents can review? This would assist with homework planning.

*The curriculum maps are shared with parents each term. We do not expect teachers to share what they are doing each week but most do share via Dojo. The tasks are all linked to the topic they are learning each term apart from Free-Choice and Wellbeing. All tasks are linked to the subjects.*

8. Half days on last day of terms are a bit of a nightmare for childcare, is there a reason why this is done?

*It's not technically half a day. It's 1 and a half hours early 3 times a year. It's a long tradition and happens at a lot of schools. Originally it was to allow families to head off on holiday and beat the traffic rather than children missing a whole day of school. It also enables staff to do the leaving gifts to staff and prepare the school for work that often happens in the holidays (Deep cleans, furniture moves etc)*

9. Clubs being cancelled mid term, again affecting childcare at short notice.

*Any paid clubs will be refunded. Free clubs obviously won't. Illness does occur and sometimes it is unfortunate. We do try to predict unavailability (parents evening etc) and add these into the dates that clubs are on. It does happen and it is a pain but the after-school club is there in emergencies for anyone and I also recommend having a couple of parent friends who can help with free child care. You might have to return the favour though!*

10. I think this came up before, but again being asked about the stepped approach to after school clubs, as some parents being charged a full hour when they only need half an hour

*All staff are paid by the hour. It is actually difficult to staff after school club due to the low pay offered. We are proud we are able to offer flexible provision (odd days and short notice) most schools you have to book a half term in advance and some insist you book for a whole week or not at all.*

### **Ofsted**

Report is now back and we should all be very proud of it. One word judgements are not helpful - reading the report is important.

### **Friends of Poverest**

The F.O.P. raised £10,700 for the school last year. The chair for the last 3 years resigned at the AGM. This has left only 4 committee members that are not staff members. The F.O.P desperately needs more volunteers as it is at massive risk of collapsing. How can the parent forum help to get more volunteers, how can the F.O.P adapt so more people come forward?

Understanding the time commitment. Leaflet in the bag explaining what the commitment is? List the benefits and list the time commitments. More informal approach. Specific request. Sign up sheets for help. Survey to parents to find out what they can offer for a specific event.



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### **Homework**

Homework menu is now in operation. What are the initial thoughts of parents? Most like the flexibility of the new approach. Gives parents more choice and reduces pressure.

**Next Meeting: 7/11/24**