



Minutes for Parent Forum – Thursday, 11th November 2024

Poverest
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Present:

Michael Parker (Governor)
Paul Haylock (Headteacher)
Antoine Le Falher Cedar)
Ellie Driscoll (Walnut) (Remote)
Julia Lester (Hazel) (Remote)
Roxanne Hughes (Holly)
Anushka Brown (Chestnut)
Raghav Kapoor (Cedar)
Haylea Elsey (Beech)
Ben Scott (Birch)
Yesim Gok Koch (Birch)
Dave Carter (Fig)
Tommy Roberts (Elm)
Sara McLaughlin (Beech and Elder)
Claire Roberts (Oak)
Yogeshwary Ramjattan (The Orchard)

Apologies:

Jemma Fairbrass (Holly)
Lena Malkin (Fir)
Kylie Wood (Olive)

Agenda:

Questions from Parents during the meeting

Lost Property

Named items are returned when they are found. The FOP sorts and tidys the box every Friday. Items not picked up are posted on Dojo and if not collected are either destroyed or given to the FOP to wash and sell on.

Road Closure



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We will always have people who like and dislike the road closure. There are people who are waiting on the double yellow lines but we cannot move them on. Also, Blue Badge holders can park there and we have many members of our community with Blue Badges. New road markings are due any day now which will make it clearer to all. It will also help the flow of traffic and make the rules easier to enforce from the traffic wardens.

Nurture Room

Reports that the children from The Meadow taking food back to their class which was annoying their peers as they didn't get to go. This is not the usual routine and no child has been told to take their food back. The Meadow hasn't made cookies so there is a misunderstanding somewhere. Also, the Nurture Room will be used as a reward for excellent behaviour each week, so those children not requiring nurture intervention will still get to experience the room.

No Phone Schools

<http://www.smartphonefreeschools.co.uk/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zF3URf15OKU&t=1528s>

Another example is where people will have differing opinions. Children at our school use their phones for homework. Children do sometimes make mistakes in their usage and we guide them to the sensible use of their phones. We do this now to prevent bigger mistakes later in their school lives. We are a mobile-free zone already. They are handed in on arrival. We do not plan to use mobile phones in schools but if children have mobile phones at home that is a parental decision.

Year 1 Christmas

No Y1 and Y2 Nativity combined this year. Rehearsal time is the main reason. The current Y1 will do the Nativity in Y2. Y1 will host a Christmas Carol Concert instead and this will be at 2:30 on the 13th December.

Gender Identity in the Curriculum

The same question from last time please...

Just a general question about certain subjects being taught in school, non binary, trans etc.

I would just like to check that there are still no plans to teach the children this or have any assemblies and if so that we get prior warning so we can opt out.

As mentioned last time we teach the National Curriculum and everything we teach is on the school website. (<https://www.poverestprimaryschool.com/attachments/download.asp?file=2399&type=pdf>)

Ofsted praised our curriculum. Below is a quote from the parent information sheet from Kapow:

FAQs

- Do you cover gender identity in RSE lessons? No, the Kapow Primary scheme does not specifically cover gender identity as a topic, although lessons do cover identity more generally, helping children to understand themselves and others. Gender identity does not form part of the National Curriculum, and we would advise parents to speak to a member of their school staff team with any questions or queries.
- What do I do if I feel uncomfortable talking about certain topics with my child? Creating a safe, open, supportive environment is important for children to be able to share their worries, concerns and thoughts. If you feel uncomfortable discussing topics with your child, be honest with them that you find it difficult and explain that you would like to give yourself some thinking time before you get back to



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them on any topics or questions. Seeking support from your child's school to help, such as discussing with class teachers or pastoral leads may help with how you could broach sensitive topics.

Half Term Dates

We follow Bromley's advised dates.

Sibling Issue with holidays and different schools. If we held our two weeks in November or Early October we wouldn't have a roughly even split of weeks between the two autumn half terms. After 6 or 7 weeks staff and children need a break.

Drumming and Book Club

Q1) couple of parents received an email from the drum teacher Dan that the music room is not available for him to teach on Wednesday and he said the rest of the days are not suits for him. He can only available to give lesson on Wednesday and unfortunately the school said they are not giving the music room on Wednesdays to him and the students to use.

Could you please let us to know why they can't use the music room on Wednesday and could you please do something about it as we dont want to our kids miss their lesson. I also thing maybe BYM might send new teacher but we might loose time by the time they send one although kids are already have a good relationship with Dan i hope you can find an alternative for all of us to be happy.

We have Rocksteddy Club on a Wednesday afternoon and this involves more than one child at a time, whereas the drumming sessions are one child. We did put the drum kit in a learning room but the drumming was so loud it disturbed the rooms next to it. We then put the drumming in a store room - it does have a small window. But Dan wasn't happy in there. We have tried to make it a nicer space. The Music room is free at other times but BYMT couldn't accommodate a change.

Q2) Is that possible, if another teacher might pick up the after school Book Club as I know a lot of the kids loved it and discovered great new books that way.

All teachers are running clubs free of charge. If a parent or group of parents would like to run the club we'd be delighted to host the space.

Nugent Carol Singing

10th December at 2pm (weather permitting)

Governor Newsletter

Feedback from Parents Wanted - Posted below the minutes is the newsletter.

Friends of Poverest

Increasing Awareness of what they do will be a priority for them.

Volunteers wanted (For FOP and in school). Dojo Mrs Wilson if interested.

School Development Plan

We are focusing on these 7 main areas of development for this forthcoming year:

- Increase KS1 & KS2 Attainment with a strong focus on Writing outcomes so that more children are writing at the expected standard in every year group.
- High expectation target for all children can read to a level that matches their actual age.
- High expectations on phonics in both attainment and the consistent approach to teaching Phonics and Early Reading



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- Increase Attendance by reducing the number of persistently absent children.
- Create and embed a Nurture Room and provide support for those who require it.
- Continue to develop the use of Nautilus across the school so that staff are supported in their Pedagogy.
- Increase the percentage of children achieving GLD by the end of Reception.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 4th February 2025 5pm

Governor Newsletter Autumn 2024

Looking Ahead to Autumn Term 2024

As your Governing Body, our priorities remain to provide for our community, ensuring that our children benefit from the best education possible. Thank you to all our stakeholders...staff, parents/carers/guardians and of course children, for their hard work and support during the Summer Term. If you are new to our school, may your experience be positive and enjoyable.

Our staff have shown much dedication and commitment, and our children have demonstrated resilience in so many ways.

We are obviously very pleased with the outcomes from the last academic year, including 4 well deserved awards: Arts Silver Award; Eco-Schools Green Flag Award; Schools Sport Gold Award and NCCE Computer Award. In addition, Ofsted's judgement of Poverest being a "good" school (under the last judgement criteria) was well deserved, with the implementation of a new curriculum utilising Kapow for delivery and positive feedback throughout the year from our School Improvement Partner, reflecting a year of growth and progress, about which we are proud.

The Work of the Governing Body

An important aspect of governance is to ensure we see first-hand the decisions being made by the school leaders and the positive impact they are having on school development. Last year was a busy one!

How do we conduct our business?

We oversee the school's business, mainly through several formal meetings:

- The Full Governing Body meets each half-term to consider the main business of governors.
- Two committees – Behaviour for Learning (3 in total) and Resources including Health and Safety (3 in total).
- The Headteacher's performance and staff pay matters are considered by special committee meetings twice a year.

Our annual Governors' Day focussed on Safeguarding, Children's Engagement via learning walks, and Continuous Professional Development (CPD) linked to suspensions (we have never undertaken a suspension, due to our inclusive nature, but we felt as a Governing Body, that we might need training on this to formulate an understanding of what a suspension means). We also had a presentation of the exciting new developments within The Orchard - the specialist provision for Autism within the school.

In our role as 'critical friends', we ask questions to clarify, understand, and challenge the school leadership team. Our questions relate to:

1. Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos, and the strategic direction of our school.



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2. Holding leaders including, the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and all children, along with the effective and efficient performance management of all staff.
3. Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure our money is well spent.
4. Ensuring that our school promotes high standards of educational achievement.

Our Current Strategic Priorities

We are keen to move forward from our latest 'Good' OFSTED rating, developing further our journey towards becoming an outstanding school. In liaison with Mr Haylock, we have identified several areas for ongoing improvement which include:

- To further consolidate teaching and learning across the school, to further improve children's outcomes.
- To check what children, know and remember over time in all subjects; Leaders are to ensure that all teachers check routinely what children know and remember, to strengthen their knowledge and address any gaps in learning.
- Ensure there is a curriculum Evaluation of Kapow and further developments of the curriculum across the school.
- To further develop EYFS.
- To ensure there is a consistent approach by all teachers to reading, especially linked to teaching systematic procedures to support children to decode and blend words.
- To continue to ensure Behaviour, Safeguarding and Children's Well-being are a pivotal part of our Poverest Community.
- Leaders to support the relaunching of Provision, (The Orchard) so that there is a clear vision for future development; a bespoke curriculum for learners; clear accreditation pathways for staff, and a refurbished learning environment for all children who attend The Orchard.

Attendance

Attendance is a big focus for Poverest. If children are not in school, then learning suffers, and very quickly children can become disadvantaged. Please ensure that your child attends school every day and restrict appointments where possible to out of school hours. If you have any concerns about your child or would like advice on attendance, please speak with the school office or Mrs Wilson - our lead for school attendance.

Academic achievement and Attendance

The Department for Education's (DfE) research consistently emphasises the direct correlation between attendance and academic success.

Higher attendance rates lead to improved academic performance, as children have more opportunities to engage with classroom materials, participate in discussions, and receive timely feedback from teachers.

According to the DfE's data, children with good attendance records are more likely to achieve throughout their schooling – which demonstrates the critical role attendance plays in fostering a positive learning environment.

Attendance and Children's Wellbeing

Additionally, the DfE's research also highlights the impact of attendance on children's social and emotional well-being. Regular school attendance fosters a sense of belonging and connection within the school community.

Children who attend school regularly are more likely to develop positive relationships with peers and teachers, enhancing their overall emotional resilience and mental health.



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Parking

Governors continue to closely monitor and seek to positively influence the parking situation in and around our school. We have vigorously promoted our School Street, and are currently in communication with Bromley Council, so that they understand our needs before acting, and then plan accordingly. Hopefully any current anomalies will be dealt with effectively. Please think carefully about where you park, keeping speed to a minimum, thus demonstrating concern for the safety of everyone. We also encourage our children to walk to school, thus supporting environmental sustainability. Remember, we are role models for our children.

As the Governing Body, we have enjoyed working with Mr. Haylock during his first year of headship. His vision for our school is taking shape. We can see the school progressing and are looking forward to the future.

Headline News SATS / Phonics Results

SATS Results

In Year 6,

68% achieved expected standard or above in Reading, with 23% achieving higher level of attainment.

67% achieved expected standard or above in Writing, with 4% achieving higher level of attainment.

68% achieved the expected standard in Maths, with 11% achieving higher level of attainment.

Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling 74% achieved expected standard or above in GPAS, with 32% achieving higher level of attainment.

Phonics Results

80% of the cohort achieved the expected standard of a score of 32 or more.

Well done, to all in both Phonics and SATS.

EYFS

The Governors would like to welcome all new children and parents/carers to Poverest in the EYFS part of the school. We know your child's educational journey will be an exciting one. As Governors we are proud of Poverest and its achievements to date.

Getting in Touch

Parents/carers will establish effective contact with relevant staff. The Parent's Forum provides a good opportunity for discussion, and each class should have at least one representative who can attend regularly. The Friends of Poverest (FOP) really has tremendous potential for community links and initiatives, raising funds to provide for those extras which we could otherwise not afford.

All are welcome to contact our Governing Body directly...letters should be addressed to the Chair and delivered to the school office.

Alternatively, please email stysall@poverest.co.uk and address your correspondence for the attention of the Governing Body.

With very best wishes to you all.

Poverest School Governing Body.