



## Minutes for Parent Forum – Thursday, 15th May 2025

5pm to 6pm

### **Present:**

Michael Parker (Governor)

Paul Haylock (Headteacher)

Antoine Le Falher (Cedar)

Ellie Driscoll (Walnut) (Remote)

Abby Solomon (Hazel)

Jemma Fairbrass (Holly)

Yesim Gok Koch (Birch)

Dave Carter (Fig) (Remote)

Tommy Roberts (Elm)

Claire Roberts (Oak)

Raghav Kapoor (Cedar)

Anushka Brown (Chestnut) Remote

Haylea Elsey (Beech)

### **Apologies:**

Julia Lester (Hazel)

Lena Malkin (Fir)

Kylie Wood (Olive)



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### Agenda:

#### **Questions from Parents during the meeting**

Anonymous Requests

##### 1. On Parent Cliques and Inclusion:

Some parents have expressed concerns about feeling excluded or that certain social groups feel closed off. How can we foster a more inclusive and collaborative atmosphere amongst all parents?

This was discussed by the reps. Mini groups will always form within classes as certain children group together based on individual interests. The FOP are inclusive and would love to hear from parents who feel excluded.

##### 2. On Children's Social Behaviour and Emotional Wellbeing:

There have been observations that some children are adopting behaviours or language that seem beyond their years, which can create feelings of exclusion for others. Could we consider more regular sessions or assemblies focused on kindness, empathy, and respectful communication?

Our PSHE Scheme, school values reiterate these points from reception to the end of year 6. We have weekly assemblies around these themes. The vast majority of Poverest Children are kind, empathetic and respectful. There are some children who have experienced so much more in life than most parents would feel is acceptable - often this is not the fault of the child but can be linked to trauma or older siblings/friends

##### 3. On PTA Inclusivity:

It's been noted that the PTA can sometimes feel unwelcoming or difficult to engage with for new or less connected parents. Are there ways we can improve how we welcome and involve all parents who want to help or contribute?

We are desperate for more volunteers. Mrs Marshall, Mrs Golding, Mrs Williams and Mrs Gunn are all keen for more parents to be involved. Please Dojo one of them or Mr Haylock to get involved. They meet in person, online and occasionally in a local public house to try and make everyone feel welcome.

##### 4. On After-School Clubs and Scheduling:

Working parents often face challenges with after school care, especially when club timings don't align with sibling pickups or get cancelled. Could we explore offering a wider variety of clubs across all days and year groups, with more notice for cancellations?



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**Poveres**

We have already aligned our school clubs so that they all finish at 4:15. Every teacher runs a clubs and none are paid for doing so. We used to have more clubs from Sportacus but they were so poorly attended they were not financially viable to run. We have an afterschool club that runs to 6pm which all children can attend. If part attendance if needed just Dojo Mr Haylock.

Just one discussion point from Walnut Class this time and it's regarding lunch time supervision. One parent is concerned that she is experiencing a disconnect between what her children are telling her is happening to them at lunch time and she is not being informed of this by the school, so is therefore worried that it is being missed by staff. She also has an older sibling in the school (yr 2) so this is not just regarding our class, but essentially her children are informing of her of concerning behaviour and incidents mostly during lunch time play but this doesn't seem to be being noticed by lunch supervisors and/or she is not being made aware of it.

We have 15 Midday staff who work two hours every day. This means we have at least 2 members of staff with each year group. Lunchtimes are monitored and have also been observed by the School Improvement Partner, Ofsted, Governors and the Senior Leadership Team. I personally have been out this week and am very satisfied with the options of activities children have at lunchtimes as well as the engagement of the staff. All lunchtimes incidents reported by the Midday staff go straight to our reflection room at lunchtime for a member of SLT to investigate and fix. The SLT member will contact the parents. All incidents are logged and these are reported to Governors at the Behaviour For Learning Committee 3 times a year. If an incident has occurred and reported at home the parent must ask which adult they reported it to. If they didn't please let us know via Dojo. Some incidents involve other children so the parents of those children will be told rather than bystanders. This week I saw some wonderful interactions across the school but especially in Year R and Year 2 where I focused my time.

I also had another question on a separate issue, a parent has mentioned that her child and others that have packed lunch are made to sit separately from the rest of the class having school dinners in the dining hall. This is making them feel a bit secluded/left out so they have asked for any clarity on why that is and if it can be changed going forward.

Unfortunately, packed lunches have to sit separately due to allergies of other children and the fact that we can't guarantee the packed lunches do not contain ingredients which children are allergic to.

Why can there be only 3 parent volunteers on school trips? Wouldn't it be more helpful to have more parents who can go and deal with smaller groups?"

This isn't the case and never has been. The number of volunteers required depends on many factors. Firstly, the number of adult tickets for the venue and travel, next the number of school staff and finally it is down to the trip organiser to decide on the ideal number of groups for the visit. I do agree the more the merrier but there has to be a limit. Occasionally we would like more parents but ask them to purchase their own travel and / or ticket to the venue



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1) Trip to the Tate Modern last week the 7th of May

Could you raising the lack of use of Dojo for school trips please? We are extremely disappointed that the school hasn't updated us at all today (the 7th of May) with how the trip is going. Considering they went to a very busy place it would've been nice to have safe arrival and departure updates.

Not all teachers are prepared to use their own internet connections to provide live updates during school trips. It is also not an expectation that this happens as we are unable to afford school devices that connect to the internet. Many teachers do which does lead to an expectation that all will do so. Many schools provide no updates at all.

2) Any updates for the new drum teacher? I know it is late for this year but could you please guarantee that we have drum teacher available for next year?

This is with BYMT and they are currently unable to find anyone. If parents know of a drumming teacher please let Mr Haylock know.

About crossing Poverest Road: it is becoming increasingly busy and difficult crossing with children, is it a possibility to bring back the lollipop lady/man at all?

I can ask again for Bromley to advertise but previously they had no applicants.

### **School Street**

Query about how the school street came to be. It was put in place for Covid. At the end of Covid all schools were asked if they wanted to keep the school street. Poverest staff did and we put a vote out to parents which was overwhelmingly in favour of keeping it. There was no petition to keep it or have it put back in place. Secondly, the rules of the school street are not set by the school. All school streets follow the same rules according to law. Blue Badge Holders are allowed to use school streets. It was unanimously agreed to keep the school street at that is what the majority of parents want.

**Next Meeting: Thursday 6th November 2025 5pm**