



## **Parents' Forum Minutes – Halsford Park School**

### **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

<b>Attending Staff</b>	Claire Spencer	Headteacher
	Amanda Metters	Admin Assistant

<b>Parents/Carers</b>	Alex Dewdney-Bell	EY
	Michelle Lyon	Yr1/4
	Ashleigh Salter	Yr2/5
	Lucy Carey	Yr4
	Lucy Hall	Yr6

#### **How we will be:**

Non-specific (not about individual children/adults).  
Respecting others' opinions.  
Keep it kind.  
Solution focus.  
Non-Repetitive

**Apologies** Emma Pickering, Lou Roach

#### **Meeting Started: 09.05am**

#### **1. How we will be, terms of reference & last minutes actions**

Mrs Spencer confirmed everyone was happy with "How we will be" and reviewed the actions from last time.

1. Reps to ask if any parents/carers are able to help with providing or funding a new speaker system or projector for the KS2 hall. ACTIONED
2. Reps to ask parents/carers for support to help with Frozen Fridays. ACTIONED
3. Assembly times (9am) to be added to the newsletter – Office. ACTIONED
4. To send details to Reps regarding endorsement of Rainbow Flag Award – CS. ACTIONED

#### **2. Successes of the Term**

##### **Early Years:**

- Loved the school trip to the British Wildlife Centre.

##### **Year 1:**

- **Wakehurst Trip**

I was a parent helper on the trip and was really impressed with the organisation by the teachers and TAs and the respect they commanded from the children. The children all seemed to have a lovely time and were really well behaved and considerate of others who were there. The pond dipping was a definite favourite and the children were great at taking turns with this.

Hi, just to say the trip to Wakehurst was enjoyed very much.

Exactly the same from me as above! School trips brilliant.

- Extra phonics support from staff much appreciated.

### Year 2:

- Highlights include Cats Protection visit and PTA cinema (Hop). Fossils seems to be going well this term, so far. 2BG parents enjoyed their class assembly, and 2LS are excited for theirs.

### Year 3:

- Board Games Fabulous Finish. Great to be able to see how hard they'd worked on creating their board games and how inventive they were!
- 3WR assembly was lovely especially with the class ukulele playing.
- Ashdown Forest trip. All seem to have really enjoyed the day. It was well organised and the children behaved really well.

### Year 4:

- Hindleap Warren Residential: Hindleap trip was brilliant. My son loved it and was very grateful to have the experience. Big thanks to the Hindleap Team from us.  
100% agree with this. It was incredible, something my son will never forget for all the right reasons. My child has raved about the trip, from the food, to the activities, he just had the best time. Thank you so much for taking them and making memories they'll have forever!
- Golf Festival - Great afternoon for the children - even though it was very hot they all seemed to enjoy themselves.

### Year 5:

- They really enjoyed the Dance Festival (many Year 5s took part). The dance was really professional!

### Year 6:

- Good to see more year 6 boys out on their bikes since Bikeability. (This has now been extended to Year 5 as well to allow more time to complete the grades.)
- SATs prep is going well including parents organised to provide SATS breakfasts (Thank you!).

### **3. Home School Agreement Consultation**

Mrs Spencer clarified what a Home School agreement is – it is a non-statutory document that outlines clear expectations from: the school, parent/carers and pupils with an aim to develop working partnerships and everyone's responsibility in meeting the school's vision and aims for the pupils. It is not an agreement on whether children can be home-schooled.

Mrs Spencer had a selection of examples of Home School Agreements from other schools for the reps to look at to decide what is important to Halsford Park, and to get ideas of what should or shouldn't be included. She advised that staff and pupils, including groups such as A-Team and Eco council, will also be asked for their contributions. She hopes to be able to share a draft document at the next meeting.

The following comments were made:

- The name Home School could imply home schooling, which is misleading. School Parent Child was suggested as an alternative.
- The core values should be used as a framework for all 3 sections.
- It should be as succinct as possible. Friendly and accessible.
- Adding signatures gives ownership and accountability to the agreement.

- The agreement should be signed at the start of each academic year. This would help reinforce and remind everyone of the contents.
- Any new starters would be given an agreement when they start school.
- It would be introduced to Early Years in the Welcome to year group meeting which occurs in the first half term.
- How will it be adapted/presented to SEN children? Concerns were raised on how it could be a trigger for children with PDA. The language used will need to be considered to focus on our ethos and values e.g. "We will try our best to..."
- Should it be age appropriate/ different for each key stage? *Mrs Spencer will ask staff.*
- Should online safety (including mobile phones) be included? There is a separate agreement for Years 5 & 6.

#### 4. AOB

- Questions raised about class changes in Early Years. *This will be communicated shortly.*
- Is it possible to have an option on the consent forms that if you are happy to car share and share your details with other parents going to be added to the form and same if you need a ride for your child you are happy to do so/share details? I know drivers need to share driving licence/insurance etc. but if this was done early on it would save a lot of last minute changes. The children didn't seem to know who were going etc so it was hard for parents to arrange car shares with no info. This will be better for the environment, help out working parents/parents with other children to collect back at school/less parking at wherever they are going. Just a thought. *Added as an action.*
- Improvements include communication about an yr2 trip - there is nothing listed on the dates to look out for section of the newsletter. *Unfortunately the initial plans proved to be cost prohibitive. Details about the Year 2 trip will be sent out soon.*
- Are we doing anything for VE day – 8<sup>th</sup> May? *There will be an assembly and flags will be put up on the day for when the children eat outside. Miss Durrant messaged a couple of people in hopes they could come in but we haven't heard anything back. There will be activities that the children can do in the afternoon.*
- Multiplication Check Meeting - Thank you for putting this on however it had very low attendance - are all the other meetings/presentations like this? If they are, would these not be better done via Zoom? Working parents would be able to join online (that are able to) and those that have childcare problems could also join or those that can't could watch it when they can if it was recorded? *The attendance for this meeting was much lower than usual.*
- Improvements include a few parents being unhappy about the music opportunity in year 5 being a half day, while every other year group has had more of a music opportunity. *West Sussex Music are only offering cornet lessons for year 4 this year. East Grinstead Lions have kindly funded the session for year 5. This cost covers the percussion workshop arranged for each class.*
- Similarly, a few year 5 children have mentioned that they are disappointed that they aren't making pizza in their outdoor learning, and are instead doing hot chocolate (apparently every other year group has done pizza, and it has been anticipated), which they have done for a couple of years already (with the feedback being that it's not very nice hot chocolate). *Last year we did not make pizza during Outdoor Learning, this was done during DT (Summer 2). Year 4 make hot chocolate. S'mores are made during Outdoor Learning and pizzas during DT.*

- It has also been suggested that each topic for the next parent forum is explained more, so that parents are aware of what might be included, and so that questions or considerations can be made, ultimately making it more accessible to more parents, who are unable to attend the meeting - info beforehand would be helpful, to explain, such as with this home school agreement topic - it wasn't clear what this would entail. [Please ask staff on the school gate or via email if anything is not clear.](#)

### **Actions**

1. Ongoing Home School Agreement Stakeholder consultation - CS.
2. Permission for details to be shared with other parents/carers option added to consent forms - Office.

**Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June at 9.05am in the Learning Labyrinth

**Upcoming Focus:** Transition Information  
Home School Agreement development update