



Parents' Forum Minutes – Halsford Park School

Tuesday 18th March 2025

Attending Staff	Claire Spencer	Headteacher
	Isma Garcia	Yr5 Teacher
	Amanda Metters	Admin Assistant

Parents/Carers	Alex Dewdney-Bell	EY
	Michelle Lyon	Yr1/4
	Ashleigh Salter	Yr2
	Lucy Carey	Yr4
	Lou Roach	Yr5
	Jennie Ewing	Yr3/6
	Nicola Anderson, Parent Governor	

How we will be:

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

Apologies Lucy Hall, Emma Pickering

Meeting Started: 09.05am

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

Mrs Spencer welcomed everybody to the meeting and introductions were made. She explained the purpose of Parents' Forum and reviewed how we will be.

1. An Early Years Rep is still needed. Message to be sent to EY parents. **Alex Dewdney-Bell has very kindly volunteered to take on this role.**
2. Year 1 Reps to share Homework Guidance information. ACTIONED
3. Information slide on Dojos to be added to the Welcome to year group presentation. **This will be done.**
4. Ask year 1 teachers about difficulties uploading homework to Google classroom. ACTIONED.
5. Reminder about snacks to be added to the newsletter. ACTIONED.

2. Successes of the Term

Early Years:

Superheroes theme and **Eat them to defeat them** are popular.

Year 1:

Sewing Workshop: Thank you for inviting us in - it was really fun and the teachers were really welcoming! 45 minutes a bit short?

1GS Assembly: Fantastic assembly, the children spoke so well and it was lovely to see them all in their world book day costumes. Loved the extra special performance from the Highway Rat! Kids seemed a lot more confident from the EY shows so nice to see how they are developing more confidence and growing up! They put so much into it and the children were all brilliant. I was quite impressed with the assembly considering they are only in year 1 (they packed a lot in it), it was nice to see what they have been up to and good for the children to build confidence in public speaking. Thanks to the teachers for organising.

Year 2:

Praise for teamwork shown by all 3 teachers.

Year 3:

The **Guatemala topic** was thoroughly enjoyed. My child was very enthusiastic telling me what they had been learning, which isn't always the case with some topics.

3RD's assembly was very cute, and they all did really well. Yes, the assembly was really good. Thought videoing the kids dancing and playing and showing us after was great, as embarrassed kids actually did the stuff they wouldn't do on a stage in front of us. So we got to see more of how they are in actuality at school.

Lots of feedback from many parents whose children loved the **ukulele session** (children very energised and motivated by it). Lots of thanks for grandparent who ran it. [The year 3 ukulele sessions are part of the Halsford 100 – 100 things every pupil at Halsford Park will have the opportunity to do.](#)

Year 4:

Chocolate Making: My child loved the chocolate making/the whole experience of this. Also, very excited about the residential. My child loved this theme for the term, the chocolate making was a huge hit and they actually tasted really nice - well done!

Outdoor Learning: Despite coming home muddy almost every week it sounded like they had lots of fun! The hot chocolate on the last one was a nice touch especially since they did it in all weathers!

Year 5:

Circus topic: The practical tasks have been brilliant and helped the children to understand the concepts. They also enjoyed writing the persuasive letter. [The PTA will be arranging for a circus to visit the school on Fathers' Day \(15th June\) for this year's summer event. More details and ticket information will be available soon.](#)

3. Rainbow Flag Award

Mrs Spencer and Mr Garcia delivered a presentation on the Rainbow Flag Award which covers LGBT+ Awareness and Inclusion. (A copy of this will be attached.) The main aims in completing the award are:

- To ensure our teaching and policies are inclusive for all, including those in the LGBTQI+ community.
- To educate children for their future by pre-empting any misconceptions and providing a safe environment to discuss, and for children to feel confident to ask any questions about diversity.
- To ensure good relationships across all protected characteristics (detailed in presentation).

The training consists of 8 standards to achieve the award, which we hope to have successfully completed by the end of the Autumn term. West Sussex are funding the cost of the training (£800) and local schools have been encouraged to participate. We are aware that The Meads have recently completed their training

and we will be sharing best practice and learning with them. We will also be recommending the course to Baldwins Hill and Blackwell.

The presentation prompted some questions from the forum:

Why this particular award had been chosen by West Sussex as opposed to other inclusivity frameworks, and had it been evaluated for its impact etc? Mrs Spencer advised she would look into this and offered to send the details to the Reps. The Rainbow Flag Award was first piloted in England in 2017, with thanks to funding rolled out by the **Government Equalities Office, via the Department for Education**. Vik Machin, Schools and Colleges Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Advisor Education & Skills | Children, Young People and Learning | West Sussex County Council stated: "We are offering fully funded opportunities for schools in West Sussex to complete The Rainbow Flag Award in January 2025. The award encourages a whole school approach to LGBT+ inclusion, focuses on positive LGBT+ visibility and helps develop strategies to effectively challenge LGBT+phobic bullying. Committing your school to the Rainbow Flag Award is a commitment to improve the lives of all the young people that you work with, as well as the LGBT+ young people in your care, those from LGBT+ families, and LGBT+ staff members."

- Would the school be looking to use the education products provided by the Rainbow Flag Award? (There had been queries from parents around the product on the Rainbow Flag Award website which relates to Gender Assignment ideology.) Mrs Spencer said that the School was applying for the award against the framework, and not planning on using the educational products the Rainbow Flag Award offers. Both she and Mr Garcia reassured that all teaching would be age appropriate and any ideological points - like Gender Assignment - would be addressed in the same way as religious beliefs e.g. "Some people believe XYZ."

It was also suggested and agreed that Misogyny would be another topic worth exploring in the future.

4. AOB

Year 1:

Bikeability: Perhaps next year an email should go out to all parents and carers the week before so we can make an informed decision should we wish to scooter or bike to school that week when the space for storage will be limited. Yes of course – it is on our calendar overview on the newsletter but appreciate that might not make much sense for some.

Litter on school grounds: It's been noticed (whilst waiting to collect children from Kicks) that there is quite a bit of litter near the KS2 hall entrance in the bushes etc. Perhaps each year group could do a litter pick as part of outdoor learning. We have some litter pickers already as part of our Eco Council – litter is a whole school community issue and so a reminder to all families to use bins etc. and pick up when see it.

Book Fair: I think if possible, it's a good idea to ask for book donations before the Book fair and have a free section - this should be for underprivileged families or families on a low income, maybe? So everyone can get a book... just an idea. Great idea!

Having a book swap was also suggested as an idea during the meeting. This is a good idea, although we are currently in the process of sorting through the books so can't accept any more at the moment.

World Book day: Please can we have more notice on this, it was very short and was not enough, we should be told at the start of the term in January that the school is taking part, it wasn't even on the school newsletter dates to remember. This helps spread the cost and/or making of costumes. Apologies – we will ensure this goes out earlier next year.

Year 3:

Two comments about the microphone and sound system not being good for assemblies. One parent commented that "We were at the back and couldn't hear a single word of the entire assembly". Apologies – we rehearse with the children but some are more confident speakers than others – which is why we give them this personal development opportunity. We have had a quote for a new sound and speaker system - £4500. A parent has kindly come in and fixed the buzzing and had a look but until we can raise more funds, we will need to wait.

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.

Someone asked if we could get an update on the log in being fixed for Purple Mash? – Yes, there was a short gap when the licence was being renewed.

Year 4:

Boys Toilets KS2: Whilst at the FLC last term the toilet door was open for cleaning, however we could see the state it was in. Why is this left like this during the day and left until the evening for cleaning? My child has said this is common and they are like this almost every day. Mr Beal will clean throughout the day when necessary and our cleaners clean after school. The children are expected to be responsible when using the toilet area.

Parents Questionnaires: The recent parent questionnaires were missing the comments sections, these are always an interesting and informative read to see how others are feeling about the school. Is there any reason as to why these were missed off this year? We use the Ofsted questions and Ofsted do not share comments when received – just the figures. This year some comments were very individual to their child but as anonymous, we are not able to respond. We had many positive which were not shared either. If a parent would like to view all comments – they are welcome to make an appointment with me and I can share them. The only common theme was a couple questioning Rainbow Day.

PTA:

We would like to run a "Frozen Friday" through the summer term selling ice lollies after school every Friday. Obviously there is always a problem getting volunteers for this so we are considering doing a rota of the year groups so parents for that year will have to organise 3/4 people to run the stall. PTA will provide the lollies and help set up etc. so it's about a 30/45 min commitment. If a year group can't get parents for their week then it just doesn't happen that week... if you can just discuss at forum if this feels workable? As is a good money earner and saves the hassle of the ice cream van lol! It was suggested that year 6 pupils may wish to help with this and they will be asked. Reps to also ask parents/carers for support.

Actions

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.
2. Reps to ask parents/carers for support to help with Frozen Fridays.
3. Assembly times (9am) to be added to the newsletter – Office.
4. To send details to Reps regarding endorsement of Rainbow Flag Award – CS. ACTIONED

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 6th May at 9.05am in the Learning Labyrinth

Upcoming Focus: Home School Agreement Consultation