

Date: 28 November 2025

Location: Online / St Luke's Primary School

Chair: Mr Dan Bates (Deputy Headteacher)

1. Attendance

Staff Present:

- Dan Bates (Deputy Headteacher & SENDCo)
- Hannah Jones (Office Admin)

Parent Representatives:

- **Reception:** Fiona Hollands-Hurst
 - **Year 1:** Rachel Hudson
 - **Year 2:** Samantha De Vleeschauwer
 - **Year 3:** Amy Berger-McDonald
 - **Year 4:** Lisa Cresswell
 - **Year 5:** Gemma Chatfield
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2. Minutes of the Meeting

1. Welcome and Matters Arising

Mr Bates welcomed the parents to the first Parent Council meeting of the 2025-26 academic year.

- **KS2 Equipment:** It was noted that the stationery list (pencil cases) for Key Stage 2 was circulated around half-term.
- **Club Kit:** Clarification was provided regarding attire for clubs; information was sent at the start of the year confirming that school uniform is required.

2. Children's Drinks Policy (Lunchtime)

The school reiterated the strict 'water only' policy for lunchtime beverages. Staff have observed an increase in pupils bringing unsuitable drinks, such as cola and other sugary beverages. Parents are politely reminded to ensure only water is provided to support healthy

habits.

3. Homework Policy Review

A significant discussion took place regarding the shift in the school's homework policy, moving away from traditional subject worksheets towards a focus on reading and core skills.

- **Rationale:** The change aligns with government and Ofsted guidance emphasising the critical importance of early reading for attainment, alongside times tables practice which underpins mathematical proficiency.
- **Implementation:** Physical homework sheets will no longer be issued to avoid home conflicts regarding completion.
- **Key Stage 1 (KS1):** Mr Bates clarified that the priority for KS1 is still phonics, with basic numeracy skills - for example counting in 2s - being the primary mathematical focus.
- **Key Stage 2 (KS2) & Year 6 Transition:** Concerns were raised regarding preparation for Year 7, where homework loads increase significantly. The school confirmed that Year 6 pupils will still receive past paper activities to support, revision, results and transition. It was suggested that introducing deadlines in Year 6 would further aid school readiness.
- **Equity and Access:** The policy aims to prevent negative discrimination against families unable to afford private tutoring.
- **Parental Feedback & Suggestions:**
 - **Optional Work:** A request was made (Year 3) for optional homework for parents who wish to engage in such activities with their children.
 - **Tracking Support:** Parents queried how they might identify areas where their child needs support without seeing completed homework.
 - **Resources:** It was suggested that optional resources could be uploaded to Google Classroom for parents wishing to access them.
 - **Spellings:** In response to queries regarding spelling lists, Mr Bates highlighted that rote learning is often ineffective as it does not translate into independent writing. Therefore, the school has adopted a different approach which involves more instruction in class and frequent opportunities to practice spelling patterns,
 - **Secondary Context:** Representatives noted that local secondary schools (TKA, Grey Court, Teddington) continue to set homework, necessitating strong transition skills.

ACTION: Review feasibility of uploading optional resources to Google Classroom

Actionee: D. Bates / Staff

4. DfE Attendance Targets

The Council was updated on current attendance requirements.

- **Targets:** The Department for Education (DfE) sets a target of 96.5%, which the school is legally obliged to aim for.
- **Persistent Absence:** Attendance falling below 90% is classified as 'persistent absence.
- **Support:** The Educational Welfare Officer visits half-termly. The school is committed to working supportively with families struggling to meet attendance requirements.

5. Governance & Feedback

- **Vacancies:** The Governing Body has upcoming vacancies; interested parents are encouraged to apply.
- **Governor Visits:** Feedback from the recent Governors' Open Morning is now available on the school website within the Governing Body section.

6. End of Year Parent Survey

The results and feedback from the End of Year Parent Survey have been published in the 'About Us' section of the school website.

7. New National Curriculum (2028)

The school is aware of the upcoming National Curriculum launch scheduled for 2028 and is monitoring the pipeline of changes from the government.

8. School Priorities (Academic Year 25-26)

The school has identified three key areas for academic improvement for the current year:

1. General writing attainment.
2. Outcomes for disadvantaged pupils.
3. Design and Technology (DT)43.

Further curriculum information is available on the school website.

9. Christmas Events

- **Schedule:** The Christmas Grotto opens on Monday for three days.
- **Tree Sale:** Scheduled for Sunday, 12:00 – 16:00.
- **Christmas Fair:** Taking place Saturday, 6th December, 12:00 – 15:00.
- **Donations:** "Nutty Day" - **No Uniform Today Thank You** is scheduled for Friday; donations of bottles and chocolates are requested.
- **Raffle:** Tickets are being sent home this week; stubs and payment can be returned at the gate or paid online.

10. Holiday Camp Provider

The new provider, 'Roar', is now active. Feedback indicates they are helpful and the provision looks engaging. Current uptake is low, likely due to the holiday season, but bookings remain open.

11. Trip Payments

A financial concern was raised regarding school trips. While contributions are voluntary, there has been a significant drop in payments, with approximately one-third of parents consistently not contributing.

- **Implication:** The school cannot subsidise these costs due to current financial constraints. Continued lack of funding may jeopardize the viability of future trips.

ACTION: Communicate urgency of trip contributions to wider parent body

Actionee: Class Reps

12. Items from Class Representatives

- **Communication:** A request was made for an electronic school calendar. It was clarified that the 'School News' app links directly to the calendar and the newsletter contains upcoming events.
- **Caterlink (Year 4):** Parents requested the ability to book meals for more than six weeks at a time.

Answer: This question is regularly raised at the Parent Council meeting and unfortunately

the school is still not able to influence the way that Caterlink organises their booking system.

- **PE Kits:** Feedback suggested that while the idea of a wearing PE kit for the whole day on days when PE happened was good, the timing of the announcement was problematic as many parents had already purchased full uniforms based on the previous 5-day requirement.

13. Any Other Business (A.O.B)

No further business was raised.

Meeting Closed.