

## Have YOUR views heard on school matters

Thank you to the two parents that came to the Parent Council meeting on Wednesday 29th November 2017. Between them, they represented Years 3, 5 and 6.



Homework	
School said...	Parents said...
<p><i>"Recently the school introduced new School Planners and a website for maths homework from Y1 onwards. We also use Google Classroom to set homework tasks in Years 5 and 6, and provide logins for Phonics Play and other websites where children can practise their skills at home. This was to improve children's independent use of IT across the curriculum and streamline homeworks (no lost books, forgotten homework, etc.) In EYFS, we now use Tapestry to communicate online regarding work in school and at home."</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very happy with new school planners - clear and helpful.</li> <li>• Children love My Maths, are keen to do their homework.</li> <li>• My Maths activities not always pitched at the right level and some classes don't have their activities set by end of school on Friday, when they want to do their homework.</li> <li>• Happy with Google Classroom - works well and tasks are more open-ended.</li> <li>• PANDA maths class complete their homework in school - can they have access at home?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Next steps...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ School to feedback to teachers on pitch and timeliness of My Maths being set.</li> </ul>	
Communication	
School said...	Parents said...
<p><i>"We are constantly striving to improve our communication with parents. We are aware there were some hiccups at the start of the year for Ducklings Class, which should now have been resolved. How do you find communication? Where and how could we improve further?"</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Too many Parentmails which aren't relevant - can these be filtered and only sent to the parents the message applies to (e.g. Football Club, etc)</li> <li>• Headlines is very long to read on screen - can this be sent home on paper / reduced in length / sectioned (school explained we chose to go paperless to reduce carbon footprint/cost and because so many paper letters go missing.)</li> <li>• Preferred calendar to feature in Headlines!</li> </ul>
<p><b>Next steps...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ School reintroduce key calendar dates to Headlines.</li> <li>→ School feedback to office staff re: Parentmails</li> <li>→ School will look at reformatting / sectioning info in Headlines.</li> </ul>	

Parking and access via Longfield Road	
School said...	Parents said...
<p><i>“The council has recently published proposals to change parking restrictions on Longfield Road and introduce single yellow lines. We have also begun to close the gate at the top of the drive during evenings and weekends, due to antisocial behaviour in the school car park on a regular basis which we felt left our school vulnerable to trespassing. We consulted with Surrey County Council and with the Priory before the installation of the gate and both were supportive of this decision. Local residents have expressed concern about parking for weekend events. Powell will open up the car park for evening and weekend events held here, and has suggested The Priory does the same for events on their site.”</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No comment - neither parent affected by the proposed changes.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Next steps...</b></p> <p>→ None</p>	

Payments and Bookings	
School said...	Parents said...
<p><i>“A lot of time is spent chasing individual consent forms and payments for various trips and experiences in school. We would like to propose a new system whereby parents have one letter/form in September with dates and details for all of the trips, experiences and extras for the year, with the option to make one annual payment or pay in three termly installments.”</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Would definitely prefer this new proposed system.</li> <li>Would appreciate more notice for trips and experiences, which this system would give.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Next steps...</b></p> <p>→ School to continue plans to implement new system.</p>	

Staffing	
School said...	Parents said...
<p><i>“Staffing is currently in a state of national crisis, and is something all schools are currently struggling with. Some of the issues include schools having to make cuts to staffing to cope with budget deficits, a lack of teachers / qualified support staff to fill vacancies, and retention of existing teachers during a time of increased workload. We are working hard to try and manage this at Powell, but it is an ongoing challenge. It is also inevitable and unavoidable that staff will move on, and that there will be ongoing changes to staffing at all levels - more so now than ever. As this is a key area of concern for us, we would very much appreciate your thoughts and perspective on the following, to help us manage staff changes in the most positive way we can.”</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>They appreciate / understand the difficulties and feel the school does communicate this well - continue to do so, so that parents understand why decisions are made etc.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Next steps...</b></p> <p>→ None.</p>	

## School Dinners

### School said...

*"We have come to the end of the contract with our current catering provider, Surrey Commercial Services, and are considering tendering the contract to other providers. We would appreciate your views and feedback on this."*

### Next steps...

- School to keep parents informed of progress with this process.

### Parents said...

- If a new provider is appointed, the priority for parents is the nutritional balance and that children have a hot cooked meal.
- Would not want a price increase.
- Feedback on current meals is that they can be bland and repetitive - would like more flavours and variety.

## Feedback on Parent Council

- |   |             |
|---|-------------|
| 1. Were you clear about the purpose of the meeting?       | 1. 100% Yes |
| 2. Did you get what you wanted/expected from the meeting? | 2. 100% Yes |
| 3. Were you able to have your say at the meeting?         | 3. 100% Yes |
| 4. Were your questions well answered?                     | 4. 100% Yes |
| 5. Were the topics on the agenda relevant to you?         | 5. 100% Yes |

## Other Issues

We discussed low attendance. Parents felt the Parent Council was valuable and perhaps parents who would have attended were unable to make date/time. Also discussed previous system whereby class reps were chosen from the register and invited to take part - this proved effective last time when parents ran the council.

### Next Steps:

- Doodle Poll for preferred date/time of next Parent Council meeting:  
<https://doodle.com/poll/9gmtumeaas9igud7>
- School to select and appoint/invite class reps from the register.
- School to ask parents for future agenda items. So far suggested: **Breakfast / After School Clubs, Residential Trips.**

## A bit about Parent Council

The purpose of the Parent Council is to ensure that parents have a voice in school decision making and provide better communication between the whole school community. It gives parents a chance to meet up and share ideas and talk about the things that matter to them.

- Parents as a group can advise the governors and Head Teachers of their views.
- The governing body can consult parents as a group.
- It engages in activities which support the education and welfare of the pupils.
- it works in partnership with the school to create a welcoming school, which is inclusive of all parents.



COOPERATION

RESPECT

UNDERSTANDING

CARING

RESPONSIBILITY