



Rooted in the community to grow and flourish

Parent Council Minutes

Date	19.5.25
Attendees	EG, NF, MB, AM, KJ, LG
Apologies	LG

Agenda	Minutes	Actions
Reading Challenge	<p>We discussed the current Reading Challenge and considered whether the Council had any suggestions they would like staff to consider ahead of launching the Reading Challenge to the children again at the start of next academic year.</p> <p>Discussion points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some parents/carers use this challenge according to the fiction, non-fiction, school book expectations whereas others felt any reading should be included and not be confined to these areas. - We all agreed the aim of the challenge is to motivate children and support parents/carers in encouraging children to read at home. Pupils seem to like the various rewards linked to the system and it is gaining positive feedback. - Do KS2 and EYFS and KS1 have to have separate challenges or could they use the same one? If they were merged then the current list of 'other' reads could be mixed for all year groups and this would provide families with greater choice. <p>Additional ideas to encourage pupils/families to nurture a love of reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Allowing children to take home additional books to read during the holidays (EG explained current applications for grant funding to try and improve the current library space) - We discussed the school's current stamping system to identify when children have read at home and when they have not. It was recognised by the Council that this is part of a wider strategy used by the school to encourage home ready but that there might be tweaks that could help (for example, considering different coloured stamps and different wording/use of symbols) - Creating 'swap' opportunities for children where they can bring in a book and swap it with another child/from a selection 	<p>EG to feed all ideas back to English Lead ahead of reviewing the Reading Challenge for September</p> <p>EG to consider the discussed ideas ahead of the new academic year</p> <p>EG explore if this could be something School Council organise next year</p>



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<p>Trips and Residentials</p>	<p>EG shared a number of trips that have taken place this year (Wareham Walls, BSO Music Concert at the Lighthouse, Sealife Centre, Farmer Palmers etc) and the upcoming residential to Leeson House. EG explained that costs for trips have increased (ie. Board, lodging, staffing costs, activity costs) and this contributed to the decision to do 1 x residential every other year in upper key stage 2 in line with our 2 year cycle (mixed aged classes). In the year where UKS2 do not have a residential, we aim to take the children on a longer day trip to do adventurous activities (e.g. last year the class engaged with sailing). EG also explained that we are a small staff and it can therefore be tricky to be able to staff more frequent residentials. For example, we had been trying to plan a 1 night stay at the school for lower key stage 2.</p> <p>The Council discussed possible trip ideas including venues such as Butcher’s Coppice, Brenscombe, camping etc).</p>	
<p>AOB</p>	<p>EG was asked when families can expect to be told who their child’s teacher will be next year. EG explained that teachers are able to hand in their notice up until the end of May half term. In addition, mentioning new classes to children too early can negatively impact some children as they start worrying/thinking about the next class when they still have a number of weeks left in their current class. EG therefore said families are likely to be told in the newsletter a few weeks into next half term (mid/late June).</p> <p>EG explained a number of transition opportunities have been planned including cohorts moving up to their new class for some of the day on 1st July but also some year groups are going on trips together (e.g. Oak and Willow) and also teachers visit each others’ class rooms to read stories in order to become a more familiar face to their upcoming pupils.</p>	

<p>Next meeting date</p>
