

Agenda with Minutes
Hamstel Infant School and Nursery Parent Council

Meeting Date: Wednesday 20th May 2026 **Time:** 9.00am

Venue: Hamstel Infant School and Nursery

Name	Class	Present
(VT) Vicki Tracy	Chair – Vice Principal	/
(SR) Scott Roche	Principal	/
Josie Barnes	Seahorse	/
	Starfish	
Matthew Driscoll	Owl	/
Hannah Halliday		
Lousie Holbrough	Woodpecker	
Nathalie Gale	Kingfisher	/
Josie Barnes		
Sarah Cook	Peacock	
	Dragonfly	
Emily Makombe	Duck	
	Heron	
	Newt	
	Otter	
Lousie Holbrough	Fox	
Ronnie Fisher		
Hannah Halliday	Hedgehog	
	Squirrel	

Apologies:	
<p>Actions from last meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share minutes with staff and SLT • Raise any actions or concerns with relevant staff. • Follow up key actions that couldn't get resolved within the meeting • Minutes to go out to parents. • VT to speak with staff about costumes for shows and letters that are sent home – to be completed • VT will put out a wish list of donations of costumes and clothing to help build up a bank in school to help families. – to be completed • VT to promote Parent Council more in July and September • VT to ensure that all staff who run workshops explicitly say that alternative relatives join your child at a workshop – to share with staff moving forward • VT to raise about Arbor and letters with MB – Arbor does have limitations within the system for allowing access to previous letters, however we do send out important letters and notices again with our weekly newsletter and our letters can be found on our website, facebook • VT to raise with staff about children drinking water - staff feedback that they give regular reminders during the day and allow drinking water at key points, some children also re-fill their bottles, mentioned adding some fruit to the water to flavour it. MDAs reminder. • VT to speak with CG about new dates for Reception Healthy Workshops – The workshop is going to be carried over to the autumn term for when the children are in Year 1 as the remainder of the summer term is very busy. • Will speak to SR about Wake Up Wednesday – Wake up Wednesday has since been e-mailed out again. • VT to speak to Friends of Hamstel about Mother's Day gifts – Spoken to Friends of Hamstel, they take on board the feedback. 	
AGENDA	
1) WhatsApp Groups Share a proposed WhatsApp group Guidelines for parents	<p>WhatsApp Groups – a few parents have raised about use of WhatsApp groups, individual children being named, inappropriate comments. We are unable to manage the groups but Parent Council could help create a set of rules for Parents to help use groups. Possible sub groups happening or individual WhatsApp conversations that possibly are causing upset.</p> <p>Clarity that it's not in most groups.</p> <p>Nathalie has put together some proposed guidelines for use of WhatsApp. This was given out to members of Parent Council to read and review. We will discuss this in more detail at the next meeting.</p> <p>Josie will pass on a copy to Hannah. Vicki will pass on a copy to Emily.</p>
2) Proposal for next year e.g. Parent Council	As part of promotion of Parent Council and parents knowing who the representatives are, VT proposed creating a poster of names and faces of the Parent Council that can be displayed at the front of

	school, website, classroom windows etc. This was agreed, this will be actioned once new council is set up in September. We also discussed having a Parent Council email set up that goes directly to Vicki for any items for the agenda as alternative for parents to use for their contributions, parent council suggest box in the front office etc. The e-mail will then be on all documentation linked to the Parent Council. It was agreed this was a good idea.
3) Key rings on bags / big bags	1 key ring only – too many It was discussed that as children go through the school the amount of keyrings on bags can become quite a lot. The children only need 1. Parent Councilors will remind parents. This will form part of curriculum meetings as well. Size of bags – children should only need a book bag, back packs can be big and bulky, they are hard to store and quite often too big.
4) Packed lunches- what's acceptable and what's not including drinks - fruit juice, water with fresh fruit in etc .	Send out some reminders about this and what should / shouldn't be in the lunchbox. We discussed water. Children can have fruit infused water in class and at lunch but not flavoured water. If a child has a medical need and alternative arrangements need to be made around drinking water, then parents should speak to the class teacher or office.
5) Toys coming into school causing problems	We have had had lots of toys being brought into school and causes upset. Please remind children not to bring toys into school.

AOB Raised by Parent Forum:

- Can the children have flavoured water? – **No, see comments above**
- Lunch – yr2 child smoothie / rec child smoothie, some confusion and mixed messages around what some staff are allowing and not allowing across different classes – [packed lunch guidance to be re-circulated / reminders at upcoming curriculum/induction meetings](#)
- Clarification on uniform – What are the rules on hair accessories e.g. cat ears?
- Loved the school trips – Please can we have a bit more information on the upcoming Reception beach trip
- School dinners – The children have come home recently and said the pasta is watery and the pizza was burnt
- Toilets at lunch still not clean - Reception still don't want to use them
- New teachers for children, when will we find out who they are? – [The children will meet their new teacher on Friday 3rd July. Parents will have an opportunity to be introduced to the new teachers of the year group at the year group curriculum meetings.](#)
- Snotty noses in Nursery – Parents feel the staff don't tell the children to wipe noses with a tissue, please could the staff encourage this.
- Library books – Parents feel the children in the nursery do not change their books regularly enough, it's about every 3-4 weeks
- Nursery children – We have been told they are being shared the pictures and not the sounds for RWI – this is the part of the first stages – but could some information about this approach go out to parents
- Uniform getting paint over it, I know the children wear overalls, but still get paint on clothes and cannot get out of clothes, is it washable paint?
- After school clubs – offer of teacher led clubs is poor – [Most of our teachers lead a club each week or a children's leadership group. It may be that the offer feels less in Reception, but it does expand into KS1. Teachers give up their own time to offer a club and we do not direct staff to do this. If you have suggestions of alternative clubs you would like to see offered that supports enrichment then please share with a Parent Council representative and we will happily take on board those ideas and investigate. We will also happily investigate any other companies that are recommended and can offer clubs after or before school.](#)
- Could tapestry be extended into year 1 / year 2 and share more photos? Could teachers upload half termly? – [In KS1 we use the Dojo Platform, we will discuss ideas about sharing of photos more regularly linked to the children and their class.](#)

Actions:

- Share minutes with staff and SLT
 - Will discuss the points raised with relevant staff.
 - Minutes to go out to parents.
 - Parent Council members to feedback at points and information raised to class parents or individual parents
- Actions carried over:**
- VT to speak with staff about costumes for shows and letters that are sent home
 - VT will put out a wish list of donations of costumes and clothing to help build up a bank in school to help families.
 - VT to promote Parent Council in July and September
- New actions:**
- WhatsApp guidelines to be reviewed and considered by all members before next meeting – once agreed these will be sent out to the whole school
 - VT to organise and create a poster to display who are Parent Council members are and classes they are associated with from September once new Council has formed.
 - VT to organise a Parent Council e-mail being used for communications and agenda items
 - Clarity on school uniform policy to be shared at the curriculum meetings and circulated before the summer holidays
 - Packed lunch guidance to be re-circulated / reminders at upcoming curriculum/induction meetings / reminders to all staff about water and fruit infused water
 - VT to speak to appropriate staff about lunchtime toilets
 - VT to raise to VB about Reception beach visit
 - VT to raise book changing in Nursery and wiping noses
 - Explore further afterschool club options. Nathalie to provide contact for a club idea
 - VT to discuss photos being shared more frequently for KS1 parents
 - VT to investigate type of paint used

Date of next meetings:

- Wednesday 1st July 2026