

Agenda with Minutes
Hamstel Infant School and Nursery Parent Council

Meeting Date: Wednesday 15th April 2026
Venue: Hamstel Infant School and Nursery

Time: 9.00am

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: Josie Barnes, Sarah Cook	
Actions from last meeting:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share minutes with staff and SLT Raise any actions or concerns with relevant staff. 	
AGENDA	
1) Can milk be offered alongside packed lunches and school dinners? Some children don't like water!	Will raise and explore with Pabulum. There may be some costing implications. We will investigate some different ideas.
2) Outdoor Learning	We sent out our updated newsletter about what we have done so far with our project. I hope this was nice to see and read. We have started this week with Year 2 parents / carers coming for some sessions. All other year groups have some scheduled time for parents to come in through the summer term.
3) Transition – Year 2 – Year 3 Transition Year 1 – Year 2 / Rec – Year 1	We have started this process already in planning in key dates and information sharing. We will be sending out some information closer to May half term for parents about some of the transition support we will put into place for Year 2 to Year 3. Our main transition day is penciled for Friday 3 rd July where the children will meet the new teachers. Staffing will not be finalised until after May half term and we will share the information about new teachers at the curriculum meetings or just before. New to Year 1 curriculum meeting – Wed 8th July New to Year 2 curriculum meeting – Thurs 9th July New intake for Reception meetings week beg 22 nd June – all information packs will be sent out prior to this.
4) Colchester Castle Trip	This was a huge success and we had 96% parents pay for the trip! A big thank you to parents for paying and supporting this so the children could have this brilliant immersive experience. We have already managed to get our Hyde Hall trip penciled in for next year with the new Year 2 cohort in October.
5) Date move	Our Wednesday 8th July meeting will be moved to Wednesday 1st July due to Reception Beach visits on 8th July.
6) The amount of events in March was a lot in Year 1 and came at a cost.	We discussed the events that the children had taken part in. As a school we recognise March is a busy time in school. It was clarified that there is no obligation to provide a costume for shows, it's usually just some coloured clothing if possible to help, masks and other props are provided. If there are any problems with costumes, you can always speak to the class teacher and we can help with trickier colours. We will put a statement on the letters and information out

	<p>that there is no obligation to purchase particular costumes and the school will support clothing needed if possible. VT will speak with staff for future events.</p> <p>Book Day - We do hold some dressing up clothes to support events like Book Day as we do provide some children with costumes. However we will make this more explicit on the information that goes out, again there is no obligation to buy a costume.</p> <p>Red Nose Day is one of our chosen charities that we support, if red is a colour that the child does not have, then non-uniform is fine, payment to the charity is optional. We will endeavor to make this more explicit next time round with charity days.</p> <p>Parent Council said they love the enrichment opportunities we provide.</p> <p>VT will put out a wish list of donations of costumes and clothing to help build up a bank in school to help families.</p>
7) Mother's Day gifts	<p>Concern raised about the jelly sweets being part of the Mother's Day gifts, this was confusing to some children who thought the gift was for them and wanted the sweets, and this in turn became problematic for some parents who didn't want the children to have the sweets. Concern also about the ingredients in the sweets.</p> <p>VT will raise this with Friends of Hamstel.</p>
<p>Key Dates for Diary: Gemma's Farm: Tues 12th and Wed 13th May Sports Day: KS1 / Rec – Wed 17th June Nursery – Thursday 18th June Rainbow – Thursday 25th June Starlight – Mon 15th June Inset Day – Friday 19th June Reports to parents – Friday 10th July Open Evening – Mon 13th July 3.30pm – 4.30pm</p>	
AOB Raised by Parent Forum:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poynings Avenue entrance being dangerous, car congestion could an application be made for a zebra crossing – this area of safety has been raised to the council • Promotion of Parent Council to try and get more people involved – agreed more promotion of this to be carried out end of summer term and September ready for next academic year –VT to action • Tapestry – Nursery has improved but some of reception hasn't been as good recently, Owl has been brilliant – VT to feedback to VB • Parents Workshops – does the school have to invite the children as sometimes parents can't get there and it doesn't feel fair for the children who don't have an adult – Relatives can come if a parent can't, we have started to put this into our letters as part of the information that is sent out, alternatively if there is a another parent whom you are friendly with and they agree then your child could join up with them. We understand that sometimes it is tricky for the children but we have found that parental attendance is a lot lower if the children are not part of the workshops, parent council also tell us that they prefer our workshops when the children are involved. • Frequency of e-mails – too many at times and important information can get lost – letters are not on Arbour and can't always scroll back to check – We do our best to think about what e-mails are sent out, however there are times there can be more when there is important information to share. VT will raise about Arbour. • Issue with water – not drinking enough, monitoring the children drinking – children becoming de-hydrated – other health concerns – Will remind staff, children do fill up water bottles during the day if they have drunk their water. We encourage regular drinking of water at key points and children are allowed to access their bottles during their day. For children who really struggle with drinking water during the day then water can be flavoured with fruit e.g. lemon, orange, strawberries • Healthy workshop when will the new workshop be re-arranged for? Could drinking water be brought up at the workshop with the idea of water being flavoured with some fruits – VT to raise with CG • Toilet issues in class – wiping – can wipes be used? – If an individual child has regular self-care difficulties with toileting then the parent should speak to the class teacher to discuss, wipes and spare clothes should then be provided by the parent. We cannot provide wipes for toileting as we are unable to staff the monitoring of this with young children and ensure they are not flushed down the toilet. • More notice for school trips – We provide a minimum of 2 weeks' notice for trips. • Year 1 trip / workshops, the last couple or upcoming events have been on a Tuesday can we use alternative days – We do our best to move around days for trips and workshops, however various factors contribute to days we use e.g. staffing, other events happening in school, availability of hall etc. • Why is the Year1 beach trip in April? – The Year 1 beach trip is in April because we have tried to put the beach trips in Outdoor Learning weeks, we consider staffing around this with other events during the year. All year groups go to the beach in the summer term and we have to spread this out around curriculum and other school events. • Wake Up Wednesday, we haven't seen anything for a little while. – Will mention to SR. 	
Actions:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share minutes with staff and SLT • Will discuss the points raised 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 • 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 more in July and September • VT to ensure that all staff who run workshops explicit say that alternative relatives join your child at a workshop • VT to raise about Arbour and letters with MB • VT to raise with staff about children drinking water • VT to speak with CG about new dates for Reception Healthy Workshops • Will speak to SR about Wake Up Wednesday 	

- VT to speak to Friends of Hamstel about Mother's Day gifts

Date of next meetings:

- Wednesday 20th May 2026
- Wednesday 1st July 2026