

Agenda with Minutes Hamstel Infant School and Nursery Parent Council

Meeting Date: Wednesday 15th October 2025

Time: 9.00am

Venue: Hamstel Infant School and Nursery

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

Apologies: Nathalie Gale	
Actions from last meeting: Share minutes with staff and SLT	
AGENDA	
1) School Priorities for 2025-2026	SR shared our new school priorities.
2) Arbor – Checking in with parents in classes that they have activated it so parents don't miss out on important letters and messages	- Arbor is asking parents to activate who don't need to activate - Newsletter – WLJ – sent out a piece on how to use Arbor, this looked useful. - Having to log in and log out is a bit of pain when you have children in the infants and juniors - Lunches are not always showing all the options? Not always allergen options? - Arbor doesn't show the letters that have been sent out previously as are sent out by e-mail, this was useful in the previous platform - Arbor doesn't tell parents what the child has had for lunch - Arbor is generally easy to use.
3) Update on kitchen	Some photos of new kitchen to share the update with parents on a newsletter would be nice.
4) Swimming is booked for summer term in Year 2. 5 week blocks.	- We will ask for donations to support the swimming nearer the time. - We are still having investigations for our swimming pool, we haven't given up yet. - Matt shared that a CIF bid was put in last year but wasn't granted because of the lack of evidence around the need within the community. A case was put together by the Trust but can't re-apply until a little later in the year. - Letters and surveys from the parents and community could support – it is something we will explore - Is it possible to do some fundraising for the swimming pool and collect donations from businesses and funding? - Juniors are managing the pool. - Could we set up an e-mail for letters and correspondence from parents and communities? We can then send something out to the school community.
AOB Raised by Parent Forum:	

- Safeguarding with children some parents have noticed older siblings from the juniors dropping off in year 2. What is the age range, is this allowed? VT checked around this query. There is no age limit. It is deemed ok if the parents believe the older sibling is sensible enough to do this task.
- Parent raised late notice around children being allowed packed lunches, it also feels there is some pressure for children to have packed lunches when some families can't always afford this option. VT explained that all our children are entitled to Free School Meals and we would encourage parents to take this option. We have noticed that a large percentage of our children are still having hot school meals. We will raise with SR to put out a clear message that we don't wish for parents to feel pressured.
- Photographer feedback; about 80% of parents were unhappy with the quality of photographs this year, some parents noticed some photo shopped photos, didn't like how the children were using their teeth to smile and some children unhappy about that. There were lots of different angles too. We are sorry to hear that many parents were disappointed in the photos this year, VT will raise this with the SR and the Office and investigate.
- Workshop timings are not always suitable for working parents. We appreciate that timings may not work for everyone. If, as a parent or carer you are unable to attend then please feel free to send a trusted family member such as a grandparent to accompany your child. We get the best attendance and outcomes from our workshops when the children are involved as well.
- Do we have aprons? Some children in Year 2 have come home with paint on their clothes. We are happy to provide an old shirt if needed. We do have aprons in school for painting and messy art. VT will remind staff that children need to wear an apron. We will discuss the idea of asking parents in KS1 to supply an old shirt for art.
- Tapestry in Reception seems to be different, some classes have more updates than others. We have had some teachers off but VT will raise with Mrs Bryant.
- Tapestry in Nursery, some parents are feeling that there are not many updates and not sure what their child is doing in Nursery. Could there be some explanations around the expectations of tapestry? VT will raise with Mrs Bryant.
- Drop off and pick up for reception, sometimes the queue is really long, parents are sometimes spending ages chatting to the teacher. This can hold up parents who have more drop offs to do? Could teachers move to one side so parents who need to drop and go, do so? VT will raise to teachers.
- Do we encourage kind hands? Yes we do encourage kind hands and we teach kind hands from Nursery to end of Year 2 through everything we do and as part of our school values.
- Can Hamstel consider a darker polo shirt?
- Flu jab – are reception having the option to have it?
- Sent out an e-mail – paying contributions for the events – is there the option to overpay?
- Arbor – some parents don't have the option to pay
- Could Mr Roche add about parking to the newsletter? It is really bad around the end of Central Avenue. It has been raised with councilors, highway officer – e-mailed asked for bollards – but not allowed, asked to send pictures in, have asked for a camera. Will ask SR to add to the newsletter.
- Phonics session was very good
- Kingfisher – have asked for update on Mrs Bird
- School dinners – very happy with optioned for packed lunches – not happy with some of the dinner options – could we have the option of plain / tomato pasta – spicy foods – are very spicy! – Will raise with Kitchen staff.
- Dojos – we know nothing about them in Reception please can we have more information? Will ask Mrs Bryant.
- Outdoor learning – love it happy with the teacher, parents love it
- Nursery notices are not always clear and shared. We will raise to whole school about giving notices around timetables and changes.
- SR email – about start time 8.45am – nursery parents having 15 minutes are really unhappy with having to wait for 15 minutes outside.

Actions:

- Share minutes with staff and SLT
- Will discuss the points raised with relevant staff.
- Minutes to go out to parents.

Date of next meetings:

- Wednesday 3rd December 2025
- Wednesday 11th February 2026
- Wednesday 14th April 2026
- Wednesday 20th May 2026
- Wednesday 8th July 2026