

PARENT COUNCIL CLASS REPS 2025-26

05/02/26

CLASS	NAME
Dover	Stephanie Slater
Leeds	Kirsty Fuller
Rye	Karen Storr
Hever	Kayleigh Easey
Deal	Gina Ashcroft
Thurnham	Sarah Bull
Allington	Anita Boyt
Bodiam	Alison Farrant
Walmer	
Scotney	
Tonbridge	Francesca Boulton
Rochester	Aly Semanco
Canterbury	Amy Jones
Herstmonceux	
Pevensey	Angie Holland

Staff attending

Giacomo Mazza

Sally Lang – Minutes

Governor

Francesca Boulton

Aly Semanco

Amy Jones

Angie Holland

GM began the meeting by welcoming the new parent representatives. We now have one for every year group so meetings can continue.

Previous actions

- **SL to email classes without a parent rep.**

This has been actioned.

- **Office to feedback to Arbor with difficulties.**

The office do not get as many enquiries, so we are hoping that most parents are now logged on to Arbor and managing to navigate themselves around the app. If you are still having problems, please come and see the office as it is important to have it working for payments for trips, school dinners and making appointments such as parents evening.

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- **Ideas for interactive open afternoons with pupils and parents / carers.**

GM and the teachers are still thinking of ways that this can work. Loose school are in the process of using Maidstone Museum to showcase work this term. We will be able to gain feedback from them and see if it's an option for us to try. Another idea is to show parents work when they are here for class assemblies.

If anyone has any ideas, please email them in.

- **GM to discuss with teachers the idea of adding a weekly update page on the website for parents to see what their year group has done.**

This has not been actioned; however, it has been discussed again. It is something that is being looked in to, GM considering how it can be managed. GM did remind parents that it can be a hard balance. Teacher's time is to focus on the children, planning, marking etc. GM encourages parents to speak to the teachers if they have any concerns.

- **New permissions forms for photos – Office**

New permissions have been sent out and added to the Newsletter for the past few weeks. If you haven't done so already, please complete so that records can be updated.

GM then went on to discuss some other points before he asked Parent representatives for any class feedback.

IXL Maths

GM explained that we are aware that using this platform of maths learning means children have more screen time, however this type of screen time is supporting learning.

Update on the gates around the school

GM updated parents on the ongoing safeguarding matter regarding the large green gates. Despite our best efforts to keep them closed with constant checks and reminding our staff and Harlequin's staff/parents, they are occasionally being left open. GM explained that he recently met with Nick Abrahams, Assistant Director of Education, who has agreed to fund the installation of an automated system to ensure the gates close when not in use. An intercom system will also be installed to allow visitors to contact both Harlequin and the school separately.

While we await a start date for this work, additional security measures have been introduced. GM also said that he understands that some parents have raised concerns about the EYFS gate, so this is having the height increased to provide an extra layer of security while we wait for the improvements to the main gates to be completed. Classrooms have also been asked to keep internal doors closed during the day when teaching.

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Hever

Hever class enquired if we are going to be part of the Government scheme for breakfast club. GM explained that we have had no information regarding this, however when he knows more, he will communicate this to parents.

It was discussed if there could be any other shorter / extra clubs to support working parents such as a Reading club. GM to speak to Loose Primary School to explore paid clubs they run.

Hever feel that there is not enough notice for Sports events and parents are sometimes restricted on notice to get to the event. GM has asked the parent rep to give an example as we could not think of an event Year 1 have attended this year. It was explained that on some recent events for the older year groups, that we have been given very little notice ourselves and always email out the information we have as soon as we are given it. We do understand that this can be frustrating for working parents and trying to get time out of work.

It was asked if we offered a language here. GM explained that we do French here. We also offer a French club during some terms as a club after school. At the moment this is currently for Year 3 and 4.

Leeds

Leeds wondered what the school's policy is on screen time. They feel that screens are being used whilst stories are being read. GM explained that we have no policy of screen time, however he will speak to the teachers to check that this is not happening.

Leeds mentioned that the Pupil Progress Survey question; 'How's my child doing at school', cannot be answered in early years due to them being unsure what to write as it could come across as negative due to not knowing yet. They questioned if it could wait till after the February parents evening so that they have more of an idea on how their child is doing. GM said that he would discuss this with the trust and feedback the timing of the questionnaire being sent out to parents.

Allington

Allington spoke about the safety of the playground and if there should be more adult provision.

GM explained that there are guidelines for how many adults there should be in ratio to children and we have the correct amount plus we currently have 3 new mid-day supervisors starting. Rough games are stopped and discussed in assemblies.

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Allington suggested fundraising for microphones for use in class assemblies. GM agreed that you can't always hear children and that is a shame when they have worked so hard. The PTA have recently funded microphones for the Podcast group, GM will discuss with DF.

Year 2 would like more after school clubs. GM explained staff are encouraged to run one each at some point during the school year, but reminded parents that clubs are run by staff giving up their free time.

There has been lots of concern for children missing minutes of play for whole class punishment when they have not misbehaved. GM said that whole class punishments shouldn't be happening. He will feed this back in the staff meeting.

Dover

Concerns for flooding around the school.

GM expressed that we have had a particularly bad run of weather which has not helped with the water issue around certain classrooms. Addressing this issue properly will require substantial drainage work. It will need significant funding, which we are attempting to be seek through government support. In the meantime, interim solutions are being explored to help minimise the impact during periods of heavy rainfall. If any parents or carers work in drainage, groundworks, or related fields and feel they could offer advice or support, we would greatly appreciate hearing from you.

Some parents were disappointed that due to their work commitments they were unable to attend the phonics workshops. GM said that previously we have tried outside school hours but no parents could make that. The school finds that having the workshops alongside the children works better. Parents suggested recording, GM agreed that this is a good idea and something the school will look into for future workshops.

Thurnham

Some parents were not aware what the Values Assemblies were. Gm explained that they happen each Monday, a child from each class receives a value sticker from something they've demonstrated during the week. A tag with their value and name goes on a display tree in the hall. Parents asked if children could receive a certificate or have it written in their journal as often message doesn't get home to them.

Parents thanked Mrs Harding; they understand that learning increases in year 2 but she has been great with the transition from year 1 to 2.

Thurnham would find it helpful if there was a couple of extra updates throughout the year on how children are getting on and how they can support at home. GM explained that we have 2 parents' evenings and an end of year report. The website shows what work children are covering throughout the term. If parents have any other concerns, to speak to the class

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teacher to book a meeting / phone call in. If we start open afternoons, this may be another opportunity.

Thurnham find dates on the newsletter need some more explanation, such as class assemblies. We have now added that parents can attend and the time next to the date so that hopefully this is clearer.

Thurnham were very positive about the new PTA. GM reiterated the appreciation for the wonderful work our PTA continues to do. He explained that the PTA are volunteers who generously give up their own time to raise valuable funds for the school. Their efforts make a real difference to the experiences and opportunities we are able to provide for the children. As well as purchasing a new set of class iPads, they have recently funded state of the art podcasting equipment. With the financial challenges many schools face, many of the additional resources, equipment and enriched experiences we offer simply wouldn't be possible without the PTA's continued support.

Rye

Rye felt that screens were used a lot for wet playtimes. GM agreed that yes, they are but wet playtimes can be a struggle and very loud with children needing to stay indoors. As a school we do try and get them outside even in light rain to let them run around.

Parents felt that the ladder is a lot harder to get to the top in year 1 than it was in Reception class. GM said that he will feed this back.

Rye would like to have information on the lessons, could they be sent the time table? This information can be found on the website and has now been updated for next term. We don't show timetables as they can change and there is a limit on how much information can be given due to time scales with other work commitments such as planning for lessons.

It was mentioned that it is very muddy on the grass by the bike racks at the front of the school. GM to speak to the site team and see if something can be done such as stepping stones.

It was asked if children can bring a spare pair of shoes such as wellies with them during the bad weather. GM said that this would be fine and that smart black boots are ok to wear during the bad weather.

Rochester

Rochester asked if there could be more girls football training/matches? Could more positivity be given to the kids from the coach rather than a focus on fitness.

Staff give up their own time for training so unfortunately not, there is one training a week and matches are dependent on other schools having a girls' team. BM has fed back that during training, ball work is incorporated within fitness work to increase their fitness levels to help them when they play matches against other schools.

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Rochester asked if there are any plans for a school minibus/transport to transport children to the wonderful enrichment opportunities that the school provides. Some parents are logistically/physically unable to transport their child which means they may miss out on such opportunities. This is being looked into across the trust.

Positives and thank you

Parents loved the phonics workshops and wanted to make sure that the teachers knew how much they were appreciated.

Huge thank you to our staff who are incredibly supportive and amazing.

Podcasting club is amazing.

Young voices experience was incredible, thank you so much to Mrs Hargraves and all the YV team for all their hard work, effort and for making that happen.

The presence of SLT is great, they are a visible team.

Rochester thanked Mrs Cheeseman. Dittoed many times.

We have a wonderful school and the staff work so hard with the families.

The trip to the Formula 1 centre is such a lovely opportunity for the children – thank you.

Thank you to all the PTA for all their efforts with fundraising and late meetings to organise and make this happen.

Thank you to the volunteers who give up their time to come and read with children.

To action

- **GM to look into a potential shorter club to run after school alongside ASC**
- **GM to speak to KS1 regarding screen time**
- **GM to discuss with the trust the timing that the Pupil progress survey gets sent out to parents**
- **GM to speak to DF on how we can use microphones for assemblies**
- **GM to speak to staff regarding whole class punishments and use of the ladder**
- **GM to talk to site team regarding ideas around mud by bike rack – paving stones?**