

PARENT COUNCIL CLASS REPS 2026-27

01/10/26

CLASS	NAME
Dover	
Leeds	Terri Smith
Rye	Jordanna Reader
Hever	Steph Slater
Bodiam	
Thurnham	Jordanna Reader
Allington	Christine Dix
Hastings	Megan Brown
Sissinghurst	Sarah Bull
Scotney	
Tonbridge	Alison Farrant
Rochester	Francesca Boulton
Canterbury	
Herstmonceux	
Pevensey	Terri Smith

Staff attending

Giacomo Mazza

Sally Lang – Minutes

PTFA

Sarah Woolley

Apologies

Sarah Bull

Welcome and Introduction

GM welcomed the new Parent Representatives to the meeting and reminded everyone that both positive feedback and areas for development are welcomed and encouraged for discussion during Parent Council meetings.

It was reiterated that individual cases or specific concerns relating to individual children should not be raised or discussed during these meetings. Parents and carers should speak directly with the relevant class teacher or a member of the Senior Leadership Team regarding individual matters.

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5 and Proud Events

GM provided an update on the upcoming 5 and Proud events. Dates for each year group have been included in the school newsletter.

The events will take place in the school hall, which provides additional space. Children will select five pieces of work that they are particularly proud of to share with their parents/carers.

Parents and carers are invited to attend from 2.30pm until approximately 3.00pm. At the end of the event, children will return to their classrooms and parents/carers should collect their children as usual from the classrooms at the end of the school day.

As this is a new initiative, GM welcomed feedback from parents and carers once the events have taken place.

New School Gates

GM explained that the new gates are now working well and have provided an additional level of security for the school site.

Parents and carers are reminded that they should not enter the school grounds until the gates automatically open:

- **Morning:** Gates open at **8.35am**
- **Afternoon:** Gates open at **3.05pm**

Parents and carers are asked not to attempt to enter through the gates before these times. The school appreciates everyone's cooperation in helping to maintain a safe and secure environment.

PTFA Update

Sarah W joined the meeting to provide an update on the PTFA.

PTFA Committee

- The PTFA currently has a strong committee of 15 parents, supported by valuable volunteers who assist on an ad hoc basis.
- Sally Lang has kindly volunteered to represent the school and share PTFA updates.

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2025/2026 Fundraising

The PTFA raised a significant amount during the 2025/2026 academic year. Funds were used to support the school in a number of ways, including:

- Santa hats for the Christmas dinner
- Podcast equipment
- iPads
- Reading incentives, including Highland Cow keyrings
- EYFS resources
- Year 6 production
- End-of-year inflatables and ice creams
- Fans for classrooms during the summer heatwave

PTFA Newsletter

The PTFA will introduce a termly newsletter for parents and carers. This will provide information about:

- Upcoming PTFA events
- Ways parents and carers can support the PTFA
- Fundraising priorities for each term

2026/2027 Fundraising Priorities

Fundraising priorities for 2026/2027 will be confirmed following discussion with GM. Ideas currently being considered include:

- Playground equipment
- Air conditioning
- Reading incentive keyrings
- An end-of-year reward for the whole school
- Other resources and opportunities for pupils

Events Booked for 2026

The following events are planned:

- Non-uniform day
- Christmas Fair
- Craft/Film Night – most likely for older year groups (TBC)
- Two school discos – February and April
- Quiz Night – parents only
- Mothers & Others
- Dads & Lads
- Krispy Kreme fundraiser
- Break the Rules Day

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- Headteacher for the Day
- Summer Fair
- Refreshments at various school events and productions throughout the year

Volunteers

The PTFA acknowledged that parents and carers have busy family and work commitments. However, any level of support would be greatly appreciated.

Even volunteering for 30 minutes to help on a stall, or assisting with setting up or tidying up after larger events such as the Christmas and Summer Fairs, can make a significant difference.

All money raised by the PTFA is returned directly to the school to help fund resources and opportunities for pupils.

Parents, carers, friends and family members who are able to help in any capacity are encouraged to get involved.

PTFA contact: PTFA@coxheath.kent.sch.uk

The PTFA also has a Facebook page: **Coxheath PTFA**

Points Raised by Parent Representatives

Collection Arrangements – Year 3/4 Area

Parents asked whether a one-way system could be introduced, as entering and exiting the school around the Year 3/4 classrooms can be difficult at collection time.

GM explained that a one-way system would not necessarily work effectively, as parents collecting children from this area may not walk further around the site when they are able to exit more quickly from the classrooms where they are collecting.

Leeds Class – Collection Queue

Parents from Leeds Class commented that the queue to collect children at the end of the day can sometimes take a considerable amount of time.

Action: GM will speak directly with the class teacher.

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Parents were also reminded that if they need to speak with the class teacher at collection time, they should wait to one side until all children have been dismissed, to help keep the collection process moving efficiently.

Leeds Class – Learning Journals

A question was raised regarding whether learning journals are being checked.

Parents were advised to speak directly with their child's class teacher regarding individual learning journals.

Leeds Class – Classroom Ladder

Parents from Leeds Class expressed concern that the use of the classroom ladder may have a negative impact and questioned whether children in Reception are too young for it to be used.

GM explained that the purpose of the ladder is to establish boundaries, expectations and routines from the beginning of the children's school journey.

Parents who have specific concerns were encouraged to speak directly with the class teacher.

Leeds Class – Use of Television

Some parents from Leeds Class questioned how much television children are watching during class time.

Action: GM will check with the class regarding this.

Leeds Class – Positive Feedback

Leeds Class parents also provided very positive feedback about the children's learning and commented on how quickly the children are developing their phonics skills.

Hever Class – After-School Sports Clubs

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Parents from Hever Class asked what other sports clubs are available after school, as they felt that the current school sports clubs appeared to be focused on children selected for competitions.

GM explained that the current school-run sports clubs, including: Football for Years 5–6 and Running Club for Years 3–6 have been selected in relation to upcoming competition events.

There are also a number of external sports clubs available, including:

- Football Five Stars
- Gymnastics
- Karate
- Irish Dancing

These external clubs are fee-paying. Information is available through the school newsletter, website and noticeboard.

Going forward, LC will look at whether Running Club can be offered to a wider range of interested children.

The school also usually offers a dance or fitness club each term for a different year group. This is currently unavailable as the relevant teacher is on maternity leave, but it may resume in the future.

Action: SL to add an overview of clubs offered across the school year to the school website.

Rye Class – Positive Feedback

Rye Class parents gave a significant amount of positive feedback regarding Mrs Mercanton and the Teaching Assistants.

Parents commented on how patient Mrs Mercanton is and how much progress their children have already made this year. One parent commented that their daughter's reading had improved dramatically.

Parents also reported that children in Rye Class are enjoying their subjects and coming home excited to talk about their school day.

Thurnham Class – Positive Feedback

Thurnham Class parents praised the new teachers this year, particularly commenting on how welcoming they have been and how well they have supported the children in settling into their new classes.

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One-Hour After-School Club

The possibility of introducing a one-hour After School Club was raised again.

GM confirmed that there are currently no plans to introduce a one-hour club due to staffing capacity.

After-School Clubs – Allocation of Places

A query was raised regarding how places are allocated for clubs, following a parent concern that their child had been on the Gardening Club waiting list /list of interested children but had not secured a place.

SL explained that where clubs are oversubscribed, places are allocated using a randomiser to ensure fairness.

Gardening Club is particularly popular and can have approximately 70 children interested for around 12 available places. Places are therefore allocated fairly across the year groups.

Children can only be selected for Gardening Club once per academic year, allowing other children an opportunity to participate.

Parents should speak to Mrs Lang at Reception if their child did not receive a place during the previous academic year.

Gardening Club does not run during Terms 2 or 3 and will continue again in Term 4.

Year 2 Lunch Arrangements

A parent asked how long Year 2 children have to eat lunch, as there was a concern that they may have to leave the dining hall quickly when Year 3 children arrive.

GM explained that there is a one-hour lunch period, with Year 2 beginning lunch at 12.00pm.

GM advised that he had recently spent the full lunch period in the hall and felt that it was a relaxed environment, with children able to take as long as they need to eat.

It was confirmed that all year groups have one hour for lunch and play.

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5 and Proud – Event Timings

A parent commented that the timings of the 5 and Proud events may make it difficult for some parents and carers to attend.

GM explained that unfortunately the timings cannot be changed and the Parent Representatives acknowledged that it is difficult to identify a time that is suitable for everyone.

Fruit Trolley

A query was raised regarding the cost of fruit from the fruit trolley.

It was confirmed that a portion of fruit costs **20p**.

Reading Book Changes

A concern was raised regarding how frequently children's reading books are changed.

GM advised parents to raise individual queries regarding reading books directly with their child's class teacher.

Sissinghurst Class – Reading Incentive

Sissinghurst Class asked when the reading incentive for this academic year would be announced.

GM will check with Mrs Friend. It is expected to be announced shortly and is likely to involve another animal-themed keyring.

Reading is already being counted towards the incentive.

Sissinghurst Class – Positive Feedback

Sissinghurst Class parents gave positive feedback about the start of the new school year and praised the new teachers.

Parents also expressed their enjoyment of the new Spanish Club being offered after school.

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School Meals

Sissinghurst Class parents commented positively on the new school meals, with children particularly enjoying the curries.

GM agreed that there has been an improvement in the school meals. He explained that he has spent considerable time working with the new catering company to discuss ways of improving the quality of the food.

The new company prepares more food from scratch, and GM believes that the overall quality has improved. Children have also commented that the new meals have more flavour.

WhatsApp Groups and Communication

GM spoke to all Parent Representatives about concerns regarding comments being made on WhatsApp groups.

Parents were reminded that information shared on WhatsApp groups can sometimes be unkind or inaccurate when discussing the school or members of staff. Comments can also easily be taken out of context.

Parents and carers are therefore asked not to use WhatsApp groups as a forum for negative comments or complaints about the school or individual members of staff.

If a parent feels that something is not right or fair, they are encouraged to raise the concern directly with the class teacher and/or the Senior Leadership Team in the first instance so that it can be addressed appropriately.

Action: GM will send a reminder email to the relevant year groups regarding appropriate communication and the use of WhatsApp groups.

To action

- **Speak to Leeds class regarding time it's taking at collection**
- **GM to check with Leeds regarding TV being watched.**
- **SL to add an overview of all school clubs being offered.**
- **Email to parents to remind them about WhatsApp use.**