



Crockham Hill C of E Primary Parent Council Minutes

10 October 2025

In attendance

Mrs Higgs (Headteacher)

Emily Keely (Chair)

Representatives across all year groups/classes

Agenda Item	Key Discussion points	Action
1	Welcome and Introduction The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.	
2	Review of actions from previous meeting on 27 June 2025 All actions complete from last meeting Update <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The Chair met with local parish councillor earlier this year to discuss changing speed limit sign from 30 to 20 mph to reflect the conditions on the lane and to explore if the zigzag lines along the Main Road could be extended to improve visibility when pulling out of the lane.<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Speed surveys have been carried out to assess speeds. However, the cost to change the speed limit on the lane is £5,000, so unlikely to progress at the current time.- A Vehicle Activated Sign (Flashes when speeds over 30mph) is being considered for Main Road to make drivers aware of their speeds.	
3	What has gone well since the last meeting? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Football matches for years 5/6 have been positive for the school and the children are enjoying taking part in the matches.• A range of sporting events and opportunities to represent the school in Key Stage 2.• The welcome letter from the Headteacher was well received at the start of term.	
4	Timings of Parent Council meeting A request was made if the Parent Council meetings could be at a different times and days to allow more parents to attend. Parents at the meeting agreed that in person meetings would be preferred over online meetings, however it was noted that holding the meetings outside of school times could present childcare issues.	Mrs Higgs to explore changing the timings of parent council meetings to increase attendance.

	<p>It was suggested that a Parent Council meeting could be held after an information session to encourage others to join.</p> <p>The meetings do alternate between after drop off and before pick up, Mrs Higgs agreed to look into options and timings for future meetings.</p>	
5	<p>Sporting Events</p> <p>Football tops</p> <p>The football tops are large and too big on some of the children. It was requested if smaller sizes could be ordered.</p> <p>Parent volunteers at sporting events</p> <p>Parents have offered to help with practice for sporting events/competitions and if assistance is required on the day of the event, to support the teaching staff. Mrs Higgs thanked parents for the offer and would speak to Mr Rowland, and let parents know if parent volunteers would be required for a particular sporting event.</p> <p>Water and orange slices</p> <p>Before children leave for a sporting event, could the children be reminded to fill up their water bottles as water is not always available.</p> <p>It was requested if the school could provide orange slices for half time for the children? Following some discussion, Mrs Higgs agreed to speak with the kitchen team to see if an option or if parents wish to provide.</p> <p>Practice</p> <p>It was requested if there could be more opportunities to practice in school time or PE lessons for a sporting event. Mrs Higgs confirmed that the school try to provide practice for the children taking part, where possible. The PE lessons follow a curriculum so may not be able to do during the class PE lessons.</p>	<p>Look into options to order football tops in smaller sizes.</p> <p>Children to be reminded to fill up water bottles.</p> <p>Mrs Higgs to speak to kitchen team about providing orange slices and associated costs.</p>
6	<p>Update on the Playground</p> <p>A survey will be sent to parents to complete with children as to what they feel is important for the playground area.</p> <p>A Working Group has been established for the project, and they will be carrying out visits to other local schools to see how they use their playground space.</p> <p>The next stage will be to create design briefs to send to contractors for estimates.</p>	

	<p>It was suggested that some companies have a community/social value element so maybe worth contacting local to see if they would be willing to make a contribution towards the playground.</p>	<p>Mrs Higgs to follow up outside of the meeting to discuss with the parent.</p>
7	<p>Library and Reading</p> <p>Library usage</p> <p>Each class has a time slot to visit the library and choose a new book. It was asked if children could be encouraged to change their books that they can bring home.</p> <p>It was also requested if teachers could add the timetable to the class pages on the website.</p> <p>Reading Army</p> <p>Mrs Rose will be sending an email to all parents to ask for volunteers for to join a Reading Army to support children across the school with reading.</p> <p>Book Shed</p> <p>Welcome to borrow or donate a book to the book shed for others to enjoy. The shed is in the playground and open after school.</p> <p>Please ensure that children are supervised to, so books are selected that are appropriate for their reading. There are adult books too, should parents/carers wish look too.</p>	<p>Request for class timetables to be added to the class page.</p>
8	<p>Rosie the Dog</p> <p>Rosie is our schools qualified Dog Mentor companion.</p> <p>There are lots of benefits of having a therapy dog in school including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ reducing student anxiety and boosting confidence ○ creating a calmer and more positive learning environment ○ motivate students to learn ○ help to provide a comforting presence for children, enhancing overall well-being <p>Rosie is able to support some children with coming into school as they want to see her or being in the classroom during lessons to provide a calming presence.</p> <p>She has regular breaks and limits on how many children can be around her in class and in the playground. The children are very respectful of her the rules around Rosie.</p> <p>An update on Rosie will be included in a future newsletter.</p>	<p>'Rosie update' to be included in the newsletter.</p>
9	<p>Stepping Stones and Maths room</p> <p>The Stepping Stones room supports the children's wellbeing, providing a sensory room for those who need it. Children can use the room for a sensory break during lessons if required.</p>	

	<p>Since lockdown some children have struggled to come into school, the Stepping Stones room provides a space for children to regulate before going into class.</p> <p>Information about the room will be included in a future newsletter.</p>	
10	<p>Split Lunchtimes</p> <p>The school have introduced split lunch time, KS1 eat first in the hall and then go out to the playground to play. KS2 use the playground first and then go into the hall to eat. The children have the same amount of time to eat and play as before.</p> <p>The aim was to allow space in the hall for children to be able to sit together with friends and to reduce the number of children in the playground at the same time to reduce accidents.</p> <p>The trial has gone well and KS1 children prefer it being quieter in the hall and outside.</p> <p>Some of the children in the lower part of KS2 miss playing with their younger siblings, however the school are planning to have more opportunities for KS1 and KS2 to come together.</p> <p>KS2 are having a later lunch, please do send in fruit to have during morning break so they are not as hungry late morning.</p> <p>It was asked if instead of fruit, could a snack that had protein in be brought in? Snacks should be fruit or vegetable, introducing other snacks can become difficult to manage for staff to ensure they are healthy.</p>	
11	<p>Daily Mile</p> <p>These will be continuing this year and teachers are seeing the benefits of the activity in class.</p>	
12	<p>Identification of School Governors and Staff</p> <p>It was requested if photographs of the Teachers and School Governors could be on the website.</p> <p>Mrs Higgs will look into this, an option could be to have the photo's in the lobby rather than the website.</p>	Options to put photos of staff and Governors in the lobby so parents can see whose who.
13	<p>Communication</p> <p>Emails</p> <p>Teachers can now send emails to all parents in the class via arbour, so able to send reminders and information.</p> <p>Newsletters</p> <p>The Newsletters currently have a 50% read rate and alongside the newsletters each term updates and information and latest news items are available on the new school website.</p>	

	<p>Suggestions were made to include in future newsletters;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ a pupil section in the newsletter which could be written by one or a group of the pupils ○ a summary of Parent Council actions ○ Rosie the dog update 	
14	<p>Security Doors</p> <p>Following the introduction of the security doors, it was asked the children can get through the doors when they need to?</p> <p>Each class has a pass which can be given to the child by the teacher if they need to go to an area of the school which has a door.</p>	
15	<p>Teaching Assistants (TA's)</p> <p>It was asked if the number of Teaching Assistants had been reduced this year?</p> <p>The number of TA's across the school has remained the same, however the focus is around intervention rather than a whole class TA. Funding can be attached to a particular child for 121 support. If that child leaves the school, then the funding goes with them to their next placement.</p>	
16	<p>Uniform</p> <p>Quality Parents commented that they felt the quality of the uniform was poor, compared with the previous supplier. This was noted and would be fed back. Parents were also encouraged to individually share their comments to the supplier if they were unhappy with the uniform.</p> <p>It was noted that the sizes are smaller than expected and would be worth noting on the website so parents are aware.</p> <p>Fleeces It was confirmed that fleeces are an optional part of the uniform, should children require an extra layer during the colder months. The feedback that the children liked the fleeces and enjoyed wearing them</p>	Note to be added to the website to advise parents that sizing is smaller than expected.
	<p>AOB</p> <p>Could the hedges on the lane to the school be cut back?</p> <p>This would be the property owners responsibility and is an action that has been noted by the village hall committee too. The school can ensure that the tree growth by the lollipop drop off is trimmed back.</p>	