



Parent Council Minutes – 10.03.25

Apologies

Apologies were sent from Ian Futchter (5F).

Golden Values

We had asked parents to seek views on our Golden Values. Overall, parents were in support of the work we were doing to instil key values in the children.

Some parents had asked for more communication regarding the values. This can all be found on our website, but we will also add an update to the newsletter shortly:

[GOLDEN VALUES | westleighjunior](#)

Some parents requested more information about who has received a 'golden thank you' – such as photographs or names in the newsletter. Mrs Carr explained that this was a deliberate decision not to do so as our school council felt that previous systems (such as citizen of the week) had encouraged the children to act solely for the recognition. The 'golden thank you's' allow children to receive a quiet acknowledgement of their work towards our values without the need for public celebration. It was noted that both staff and children can nominate someone to receive a golden thank you. Following feedback, we will also add a section to the communication book that includes our Golden Values poster and an area where children can record if they have received a 'golden thank you'. Children are also rewarded on the playground by our MDAs, who give stickers in the moment if they spot a child demonstrating a Golden Value.



Newsletter

Many suggestions were submitted for improvements and tweaks that we could make to improve the newsletter. It was noted that Mrs Carr spends a lot of time producing the newsletter each week, which is an invaluable resource to many parents.

Suggestions that we will be implementing:

- a change to the notepad image, which covers dates when scrolling;
- a headings list at the top of the newsletter, where parents can click through to the section they wish to read;
- new or amended dates in a different colour;

- putting more information into the year group section, including swimming/PE days and reminders for upcoming events;
- a link to a PDF version of the internet safety poster that can be 'zoomed in';
- a separate 'sports' section from other news;
- community information to go on the website rather than the newsletter, with a link to this each week.

We also discussed some other suggestions:

Club timetable with dates: Although this will not be going in the newsletter, we are changing over to a new provider for ParentPay, which will hopefully provide parents with a personalised calendar (including clubs) for their child. There is no date for this as yet, but this will hopefully be in place ready for September.

A look ahead at what is coming for the children: Information about the curriculum for each year group can be found on the website.

A teacher spotlight: It was felt that this would place more workload on the staff.

More focus on 'non-sport' events: We do celebrate many other areas of school life within the newsletter. We appreciate that there is a lot of sport – but this is reflective of the many events in which we participate! We will try separating 'sport' and 'news' within the newsletter to try and place equal emphasis.

Swimming and PE: A reminder of changes will go on the newsletter every half term. It is also on the website and we will be making this clearer in communication books next year.

Internal spotlights: It was suggested that we highlight some key roles within the school, such as prefects, house captains and playground squad within the newsletter.

Parents shared that the change to having key dates at the top of the newsletter was very well received. Missing dates that fall on and off the list make it difficult to follow – we will try to address this.

AOB

We then discussed some items submitted by parents. Mr Aggus asked the council to remind parents that any issues that are specific to a certain child/parent should be discussed with the class teacher or a member of SLT rather than submitted to parent council.

Some of the areas below have been discussed previously and can be found under the 'hot topics' section of the website: [HOT TOPICS | westleighjunior](#)

LSA Provision

Parents requested an update on LSA provision as it was felt that, despite the best work of the class teacher and SENCo, there is not enough support. Mr Aggus explained that this is linked to funding, but that we are extremely well staffed when compared to other schools both locally and nationally. Parents are welcome to get in touch with their local MP to request more funding for schools – this would always be gratefully received!

Communication Books

A parent shared that they felt the communication book was not used by the teacher to communicate issues about their child's learning. Mr Aggus explained that the communication book can be used by parents to communicate with their class teacher (although please remind children to share this as these are not checked daily). The communication book would not be used to discuss learning or any worries about a child – if a teacher wished to discuss this, they would get in touch. We are modifying the communication books in readiness for September.

Sport

A request was made for more sport – such as larger football teams or teams per year group. We have to form our teams based on local competitions, which are always grouped as 3/4 and 5/6. We provide a huge amount of extra-curricular sport and just wouldn't be able to staff anything in addition to what is currently offered. We are also very limited on space. However, last year over 250 children represented the school in a sporting capacity. We keep careful track of those who participate to ensure fair access, and provide both elite and participatory opportunities.

There are many opportunities each lunchtime for children to get involved with sport – Mr Markham often sets up house team games where all who are interested can participate. Our MDAs have also received recent training and set up a variety of daily games, such as table tennis and speed stacks.

Clubs

We fully appreciate the popularity of our clubs and have ensured that parents are given advance notice when booking for any internal clubs goes live. We track attendance at clubs and try to ensure fair access – so although children may not get a place immediately, we hope that they would receive the opportunity at some point during their time at West Leigh. Some clubs have limited places due to the nature of the club – for example, Baking Club takes place in our small pupil kitchen and would be unsuitable for large numbers of children.

The club timetable is on the website and it is updated frequently, along with a draft copy for September at the end of the summer term. This can be used to talk to children about the clubs they might like to attend. We have a large number of pupil-led clubs throughout the year which provides further opportunity for children to become involved in the wider life of the school.

Learning Rewards

Mrs Carr explained how our Learning Rewards work, as some parents were confused as to why children received the same Learning Reward more than once.

These run alongside what we believe to be the key learning behaviours required to be an effective learner. It is possible for children to demonstrate what is needed to receive a Learning Reward more than once – and this is fantastic as it means they have really embedded the skill. The chart shouldn't be filled in too quickly – it is important that the children have to work for these! Although the Learning Rewards stay the same from Years 3-6, the expectations for how each Learning Reward is achieved grows.

We made a note that this would be useful to include in the curriculum meeting at the start of each year, and that some parents felt that teachers needed to be more consistent in how these were rewarded.

Showbie

Some Year 3 parents were a little confused by the folders on Showbie and what they should be doing with them. Mrs London explained that most folders are for use in class – they are used by teachers to share resources and for children to upload their work. On occasion, they are used for homework, especially in Upper School. This will be indicated clearly in the communication book if this is the case.

The date for our next meeting is Monday 16th June 2025 at 4.30pm.