



Parent Council Minutes 10th November 2025

Introductions

Introductions were made, and the purpose and successes of the Parent Council were explained. We welcomed our new Year 3 members of the council.

Lockdown Video

Parent councillors were shown a video planned for children about lockdown. The feedback was very helpful, and we will take those points on board and make changes before sharing it with parents and children.

Parking

Councillors were asked to collect feedback from their classes regarding parking. We understand this is a very frustrating issue for both parents and the school. We share your frustration and continue to do all we can to encourage considerate parking.

Current measures include:

- Cones along West Leigh Avenue
- The "School Street" scheme
- Meetings with the local councillor to discuss ongoing issues

We have also requested an increased presence from parking wardens, although they often attend intensively for a few weeks and then disappear for a while.

Two Blue Badge holders have been given permission to park at the end of the cones. They were concerned that others might think they were parking incorrectly, but they do have authorisation to do so. A request has also been made for a disabled bay to be installed at the end of the double yellow lines.

The top of Marine Avenue was highlighted as another problem area. We will look into whether cones can be placed there by the Infant School.

A walking bus was suggested, but this would need to be organised and run by parents, as the school would not be able to take responsibility or liability for it.

Another idea raised at the Infant School Parent Council was for parents to share if they have a free driveway within class WhatsApp groups. This could help reduce dangerous parking by allowing others to use empty driveways.

Finally, we have requested fixed traffic cameras in the hope that they will deter dangerous parking.

Positive Feedback

Positive feedback was shared from several parents that the alternative after-school club offering (3:25–4:30 p.m.) has been well received and appreciated.

Arbor

Some issues were raised regarding Arbor, but overall feedback was positive—especially the addition of Apple Pay.

Concerns included:

- Inability to cancel breakfast or after-school club bookings
- Confusion about why some payments are instant while others must be held in a balance
- Instances where parents were told they were in deficit but could not see a record of past payments

These issues will be fed back to the school office for clarification.

Uniform

A request was made from 6W for Chelsea boots to be allowed as part of the uniform. However, we need to maintain consistency to ensure clear boundaries and enforce standards.

While Chelsea boots will not be permitted as part of the uniform, we would like to reiterate that children may wear boots to school in wet weather and change into school shoes once inside.

Pool Changing Rooms

The smell in the pool changing rooms, particularly at the end of the day after swimming lessons, was raised as an issue. It may be a drainage problem. This will be reported to the caretaker and the swimming pool staff.

Showbie

Year three parents requested more clarity around the use of Showbie.

We noticed similar concerns last September, so moving forward, a letter will be sent to new Year 3 parents explaining Showbie, with a link to the parent guide.

The parent guide can be found here: [SHOWBIE | westleighjunior](#)

Generally:

- Most items on Showbie are for use in class.
- If something appears at home, it is likely a classroom resource, not homework.
- Showbie is mainly used for spellings in Lower School and for homework in Upper School.
- These will be clearly labelled in folders named Homework and Spellings.

Spellings

Parents requested that spellings be sent home earlier in the week.

Currently, spellings are sent home on Friday, tested on Wednesday and retested on Thursday.

To allow more preparation time, spellings will now go live on Thursday on Showbie, although they will still be shared with pupils in class on Friday.

Drinking Water

Children have access to drinking water throughout the school day. Water bottles are usually stored together near the sink to prevent spillages, especially in smaller Lower School classrooms where bottles on desks or floors could be hazardous.

Children are never told they cannot have a drink, although they may be asked to wait if the teacher is speaking. During the summer, bottles may be kept on desks and taken outside at lunchtime. Water fountains are also available in the playground. Staff have been reminded that bottles can be taken to the field as well.

Communication

Some Year 3 parents felt that communication could be more consistent.

Currently, information is sent via email or newsletter. We do not use the in-app messaging function on Arbor yet, as it requires specific settings.

Suggestions included:

- Adding clear headings to school emails to make them easier to search within inboxes.
- Ensuring communication book messages are followed up—children should place these books on the teacher's desk, as they are only checked weekly.

Staff at School Discos

A member of the Senior Leadership Team is now always on site during school discos. Although these are PA events, this staff member is available if needed.

Sports Participation

This is a recurring topic at Parent Council meetings. Changes have been made this year, though the impact may take time to become visible.

Last year, many children took part in sports, but some were involved in multiple events. We aim to balance opportunities so that both elite athletes and those less experienced can participate.

Key updates:

- Qualification-based sports: cross country, football, borough sports, swimming gala, and tag rugby.

- If a child competes in one or more elite sport, their participation in additional events will then be limited to increase overall inclusion. This will allow more children to participate and compete overall.
- Mr. Markham is monitoring participation levels to ensure fairness.
- Children who try out for football but are not selected for the team will still play in at least one school fixture during the year.

Assemblies and Choir

This approach to inclusion also extends to Year 6 leavers' assemblies.

We have adjusted assemblies in Years 3–5 to allow more children speaking opportunities by dividing performances between two classes.

In Year 6, children can audition or volunteer for roles.

It was also noted that the girls' choir is open to all, whereas boys must audition. Boys who are unsuccessful are told to gain confidence but not always given opportunities to do so. Mr. Aggus will review this.

The date of our next meeting will be Monday 2nd March.