

Shirley Infant School – Parent Forum – Spring

Date: Friday 20th March 2026 @ 12:00pm (Teams / Online)

Purpose: The parent forum is an important and valued (by both school and parents/carers) communication link. It is an opportunity for parents/carers to provide feedback, seek clarity/confirmation, raise general concerns, and make suggestions. It is a two-way partnership, and the school will also utilise this platform for purposes such as to propose new initiatives, changes, or gain feedback on parental engagement. By working together, we can continue to make Shirley Infant School a great place for children to thrive and support the motto of 'Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day'.

Attendees

FOSIS Co-Chairs – Rachael Oxley (RO)
Head/Deputy Head – Cate Gregory (CG)
FOSIS Secretary – Myiah Ahmed (MA)

Parent Reps

Attendees	Apologies
Emily Arbery (Moles) (EA)	Maria Villares (Owls)
Myiah Ahmed (Secretary & Foxes) (MA)	Hannah Brown (Badgers)
Gemma Alexander (Otters)	Tamsyn Langton (Foxes)
Kimberly Duncan (Rabbits)	Rachel Madgwick (Rabbits)
Veronika Krcalova (Badgers) (VK)	Carly Collins (Hedgehogs) (CC)
Taryn Makaruk (Squirrels) (TM)	Charlotte Watts (Beavers)
Amy Yates (Hedgehogs)	Monika Żytowiecka (Otters)
Vicki Dane (Moles)	Clare Large (Squirrels)
Sophie Findlay (Owls) (SF)	Natalie Steel (Co-Chair)
Rebecca Maclean (Beavers) (RM)	
Rachel Oxley (Co-Chair) (RO)	

Agenda

1. Actions from previous meeting
2. Positive Feedback
3. Communication
4. School Run
5. Processed Foods
6. Victorian Day
7. Welfare
8. Reading Books
9. Lost Property
10. Other
11. Home Learning Behaviour Award
12. AOB

1. Actions from previous meeting (November 25):

Item No.	Action	Responsible	Comments	Complete
3.1	Class reps to gain consensus on prerecorded curriculum sessions with the options to submit questions. (Year 1 and 2 only)	MA	CG: Will go ahead with pre-recorded sessions from September. Q&A live session launch a week later.	Complete
4.2	CG to check if changes to dojo points has been shared with parents	CG	CG checked with staff and it had gone out to staff.	Complete
8.0	Class reps to gather any additional feedback on the home learning.	MA	MA: No feedback from reps from last meeting.	Complete
9.0	CC to send a link to CG / office for Paultons park promotion.	CC		Complete

2. Positive Feedback

- 2.1. Loving all the year R activities - my child has really enjoyed the farm visit and the topics of the project work
- 2.2. We are grateful for the ongoing support the teachers give to the boys, it's been lovely to see their individual confidence growing
- 2.3. I love the activities they do. The visit from the farm and the visits about professions. I think those are very inspiring ways of making the kids get interested and I'm sure can take a lot of work to plan
- 2.4. Loved the farm visit, although he now refuses to eat meat!
- 2.5. I really loved the hospital topic and meeting paramedics. She still talks about it now
- 2.6. Our child loves all the activities that are done! Get super excited to get involved then tell me about her day! Love how active school is in getting the kids involved in days and bringing people in to teach the (personally feel like it's the best way to learn)

- 2.7. Really happy with all of the teaching, support, care, etc from the Hedgehogs teaching team.
- 2.8. Our child is having the best time in Year R and Miss Smith is an amazing teacher and couldn't ask for more from Miss Mason. The kindness and encouragement they show is hugely appreciated. The farm and chicks have been a huge hit too!
- 2.9. Our child has struggled this term with going into school and Mrs Smith, Mrs Mason and Mrs Gregory are always helpful and have the magic touch. It makes things so much easier and calms her.
- 2.10. They are an amazing team. I can't fault anything this year. The feedback is honest and thorough at parents' evenings and we're so glad that our child's first year of school is spent with such incredible teachers.
- 2.11. A huge thank you to Miss Peach and Miss Mantle who seem very supportive and nurturing
- 2.12. Farm day (and incubating chick eggs) sounded a really lovely learning experience for the children
- 2.13. Amazing work by Miss Moncrieff and Mrs Schapper. Miss Moncrieff is very good at quickly reacting to any concern raised so far, which has been reassuring for parents. They are very knowledgeable about how to help children work through challenging feelings. We really appreciate it!
- 2.14. Thank you for all the great work they do. We appreciate the wide range of topics they are exposed to during this year.
- 2.15. Great work by Mr Segun, our child loves it when he comes to teach!
- 2.16. Overall, thanks to the teachers and assistants for their hard work!
- 2.17. Thank you for all their hard work. We appreciate everything they do for the children.
- 2.18. Mrs Schaper is an asset to Owls, always so welcoming in the mornings to parents and children.
- 2.19. Miss Moncrieff is really proactive, when I raised an issue with her about some playground issues she dealt with it thoroughly that day.
- 2.20. Miss Orman & Mrs Durman are a fantastic team! They're so good in the mornings, encouraging the kids to go in, with big smiles on their faces! Feedback from parents evening was really helpful - they obviously know our daughter very well.

- 2.21. Very inspiring topics this term! Our daughter and her friends have been much more interested in writing and talking about what they've been doing- especially space and Victorians.
- 2.22. The children were very sad to see Mr Layton go. He's been very fun, and will be missed. It would have been good to have had a warning as parents, as we could have made a goodbye card at home (daughter's request but too late).
- 2.23. We are extremely pleased with the school overall. The teachers are wonderful, attentive, and clearly dedicated to the children's development and wellbeing. Their commitment and hard work are very much appreciated, and it shows in the positive learning environment they create.
- 2.24. A special mention must go to Mrs Clarke and the music provision. The enrichment opportunities in this area are truly outstanding, and we feel very lucky that the children have access to such high-quality experiences. It makes a real difference to their confidence and enjoyment of school.
- 2.25. We are very grateful for the school's continued efforts and the care shown to the children.
- 2.26. The teachers in foxes are great! Our child absolutely loves Mrs Banning and all the interactions I have had with her. I think she is a really memorable teacher that our child will carry with her fondly for a very long time. She has taught her so much and will be very much missed when they go up to junior school! She's always happy to have a chat if I have any worries and has really put my mind at ease on occasion. She seems to be so much fun but also very well respected by the pupils.
- 2.27. The presence of Miss Crabb at the door some mornings is also really great, she always seems to be happy to see the children and they all seem very happy to see her, and she seems to know the individual children so well.
- 2.28. I think the children have been very lucky to have had a really great bunch of consistent teachers for the last 18 months with Mrs Banning, Mrs Gregory and Miss Crabb! And also worth noting Mr Trueluck was also a really fun positive influence in the classroom the time he was with them
- 2.29. I just want to say that I think the school is amazing and does a really great job. Mrs Banning seems like a really safe pair of hands
- 2.30. Parents' evening with Mrs Smith was lovely. She seems to have got to know my child well and my child is now happy and knows what to expect each day. No complaints so far she is lovely 😊!

- 2.31. We really appreciate all the school activities, like trips, mini farm animal visits, and the Golden Tickets. My child really enjoys them and is always excited to go to school, as there's always something for her to look forward to.
- 2.32. Appreciate all the great work of Mrs Smith and all the other Badgers teachers. I feel like my son made a huge progress this year and feels a lot more supported and understood.
- 2.33. Jog Squad has been great on Tuesday mornings, my child has really embraced getting up early to get there I think largely down to the energy that Adam has got to get them all motivated.
- 2.34. Love the after school clubs that Team Spirit provides and keep asking to be signed up for more days :)
- 2.35. Our child is really enjoying the year 2 topics - especially the titanic and great fire of London. He's really loved the immersive days and the activities involved. Big thanks to Miss Spencer and Mr Segun for all their hard work! x (As Parent Reps we 1200% second this, our boys are both loving the topics too!)
- 2.36. Positive is just how much the foxes kids love Mrs Banning- she is a brilliant teacher and Bella is so happy being in her class. I'd just like for that message to get back to her and for her to know what an excellent choice she was!
- 2.37. Miss Ormond and Mrs Durman have been wonderful since the start of the year but particularly supportive this term. Our child has been a bit shy going into class recently but their calm, reassuring presence has made such a difference in making him feel more comfortable. We really appreciate them taking the extra time to help him feel more settled
- 2.38. Miss Crab at the door every morning is the nicest way for our children to start the day. She's so warm and friendly, the children go in with a bounce in their step!

RO: Great feedback highlighting support for the school. The visits have been really well received, and staff is really supportive. Lots of staff shout outs, similar to last time, and great efforts on welcoming the children. Parents' evenings have also been shown as valuable.

3. Communication

- 3.1. Concern expressed on the spelling and Grammar errors in communication and literature from the school. Can spell checks or reviews be conducted to ensure these are picked up before publishing.

CG: Has been raised with the office already, the staff will be looking into working somewhere quieter when editing. It's a very busy office and there can be many distractions i.e. when a child needs medical attention.

3.2. Delayed Communications / Awareness:

- 3.2.1. Medical notification system - some children have returned home with red wrist bands but parents received no alert. Is there an error with the system?

CG: The school does not use red bands, we think maybe they mean the orange bands. Can the parent approach the school for us to be able to look into correctly.

VK: Also noticed this this week with her child, there was a head bump and a band, but no notification via system.

KD: A mum in Rabbits has not been notified of injuries, will stay on the call at the end to give details to Mrs Gregory.

- 3.2.2. Nativity Dress Up - if possible can parents be notified in early December to have more time to buy/organise costumes.

CG: These came out at the end of November. There was one class which came out slightly later, but the teacher did apologise at the time.

MA: Was not a generic feeling, feedback was from one class only.

RM: Clarification from Beavers. The question was more if the nativity could be moved earlier in the calendar as the last week of term can be busy for parents during the last week of term.

CG: The children follow a learning journey as part of the national curriculum and the performance is targeted for the end of the RE unit on christmas learning. Unfortunately that means we can't move it forward. We appreciate that parents are busy and staff are also working parents, we do understand the pressure.

- 3.2.3. Sound Sheets (Year R) - there is a delay from what they are taught in class to the sheets being sent home for home support. It can be difficult to know the order of the resources. Can these go out in book bags alongside school learning?

CG: Will check with Mrs Smith on the process of distribution to parents.

Action: CG to revert.

- 3.2.4. Children's Leadership elections (Sports Leader, Eco Warrior & School Council) - more awareness or guidance given to parents so they can support the children's preparation.

CG: All are raised in weekly comms, it is also mentioned in the newsletter. Do the reps have any ideas on another method that we can enhance awareness of these?

VK : will give feedback to the parents to see what they would advise.

4. School Run

4.1. School Gate

- 4.1.1. We would appreciate a review of the school gate arrangements. While the current one-way system works to an extent, it can still be quite difficult when passing with prams or navigating through busy periods. It may be more effective to reverse the flow, as congestion tends to build up near reception at drop-off times.

CG: The alternative one-way was trialled before and was not as effective. This was the best solution and will stay in place. We can have staff out after easter to redirect the flow if this will be useful.

RO: Possibly. There are a lot of prams, and people are going left and right, which can't be avoided even if the gates are switched.

- 4.1.2. Could the school ensure the gates are opened promptly at 8.40am, occasionally it opens as late as 8.45am. Sometimes parents have to rush off to work and those minutes can make a difference. Also, during times of peak traffic it's a danger to the children waiting on the corner of Wilton/Belle Moor road.

CG: staff always aim to open on time and endeavour to do this. Sometimes there are issues such as safeguarding that come up which can prevent us from opening the site promptly;. We apologise for this but will work hard to ensure we do.

- 4.1.3. Increased number of dogs at the school gate. There has also been lots of excrement nearby the schools (completely understand that part is outside of schools control) but can communication be sent out to tighten the rules about this?

CG: Has been out to parents to tell them not to tie the dogs to railings. There are children who are really scared of dogs - and this also increases congestion at school gates. A request will be added to the newsletter too.

- 4.1.4. Increase in cars on Wilton Road and in the emergency gate- can comms to parents be sent to encourage walking / or to have some level of policing to remind parents to use the Range / M&S car park.

RO: Emailed the council to see when there will be camera enforcement. RO will forward the full email to CG. The email detailed that although some schools have camera enforcement, the council don't have the budget to roll out to all the schools that were identified. They are ready to expand to the next stage of camera enforcement (temporary cameras) in the near future and then look at the priority within the area.

CG: Amazing. The school had to complete a questionnaire on this. Its a really narrow road, and cars have been seen mounting the pavement to overtake, and a few near miss accidents with bikes. The school has a Modeshift Award and the Healthy High 5 award, which the council may see the school as being active and may prioritise the cameras.

VD: We park in MS and walk down - but the shortcut is used by USH parents - maybe they can be added to the USH school comms.

RO: will revert to the council that when the weather is better there maybe less traffic, so the council should take this into account. Will forward any go-forward communication with the council to CG.

5. Processed Food

- 5.1. We are aware that school lunches are provided by an external source, however is there a school policy on ultra-processed foods? Currently, when looking at the meal ingredients, most are ultra-processed, which could easily be replaced with healthier options. Can we advise the provider to choose more healthier options?

CG: There is not a school policy, but a Government policy on salt, sugar and processed foods that all catering companies that supply to schools have to adhere to. These are currently being met from the information under our tender with the caterer. Advised that parents should raise concerns directly with Dolce to see if they want to replace ingredients.

6. Victorian Day

- 6.1. Concerns raised across year 1 on Victorian Day gender segregated activities. Comments from parents understand that it is important to learn about the period and social norms however would prefer a more inclusive / rotation approach to student experience in the activities. Another concern is explaining to the children that some of the activities they are doing are not acceptable in today's society (i.e. girls bake while boys are not).

CG: this feedback came up prior to the day. It's a bit disappointing that the feedback has come prior to the children having the immersive experience and the chance for the school to have the discussions with the children. That is a really important part of the day. Post event - did parents feel the school didn't handle it correctly?

EA: Did provide explanation to parents based on experience from older children. But it will be worthwhile to ask for post day feedback.

MA: Also raised by Owls - can the rep also take away for post day feedback.

SF: Yes. Will do.

7. Welfare

- 7.1. When will parents receive information/feedback on the school nurse check up (age 5)?

CG: Normally no news is good news, and the nursing team will only send letters if the child requires follow up on their hearing or sight. Not aware of any changes.

- 7.2. Children don't appear to be drinking much during the day, are they being prompted to drink with the weather becoming warmer?

CG: there are key times in the day that children are prompted to drink. They are encouraged to refill. The bottles also go into the lunch hall on the trollies. Part of the Healthy High 5 award for the school.

TM: this was raised by squirrels. Will give feedback to the parent.

- 7.3. Are there any school books authored by David Walliams? Please could a response be provided as the literature may contain harmful stereotypes, body shaming, inappropriate language. Parents can provide examples if required.

CG: No guidance or instructions has been provided to schools to remove books from this author. We are not aware of any language in the content. It is in the library and it's the parental choice whether to share the book with the children. Will review the examples if the parent can provide.

RO: There were DW books at the book swap for WBD, which may have prompted the feedback.

MA: Parents gave some examples. These can be sent over.

SF: Parents send them examples of the issues. Via email.

- 7.4. A parent expressed that dress up days can be expensive (and even making costumes come with a cost). Is there an option for children to create costumes/props in class that they will use for celebration events/ dress up.

CG: The letters from school always mention that if parents are struggling with costumes, please speak to the class teachers as they can find costumes. The immersion days are planned with this in mind. The school considers where costumes can be reused. I.e for Victorian day and Titanic day. We keep dress up days to a minimum and there is context behind each one.

Mrs Durnham did try to run a second hand costume initiative, but unfortunately it didn't prove popular.

RM: Mrs Druham idea was really good - when a child leaves Year 2 they can donate costumes. Is this something the school can support?

CG: It can't be run by the school, but it can be run by Mrs Durnham with FOSIS. Please email the school and it'll be passed across to Mrs Durnham.

8. Reading Books

- 8.1. Can FOSIS donate to replenish missing books so that every child receives a physical copy?

CG: FOSIS has already donated thousands towards books. A huge amount of books get damaged. Each book costs £6 and it has been replenished, the school spent another £800. There is a pinch point at Autumn 2 where Year R

and Year 1 cross over where they will need to use online books and the number of books needed can't cover the volume.
There are incomplete packs as there are so many books that have been damaged. We have continuously asked for these books to be taken care of as they are a great expense to the curriculum.

Parents are charged for damaged books, but only 30% of fines are paid.

EA: This was raised by moles. The suggestion is maybe parents could donate?

KD: Other schools are completely online - so we are lucky that we have physical books.

9. Lost Property

9.1. Several comments - this was raised in the last parent forum. Named items are still delayed in returning, particularly jumpers and water bottles.

CG: sometimes items take a week to find. Some things are found in the strangest of places! If it's named it will make its way back to the classroom.

EA: When parents have gone to the office to ask for lost property, they are directed to Juniors. Lost property isn't always put out at juniors.

CG: Anything unlabeled will be sent to lost property; the school just can't store it.

10. Other:

10.1. The government communicated that their ambition was that by 2026, all primary school-aged children who need it will be able to access term time childcare in their local area from 8am-6pm. Are there any plans to expand the on-site offering at Shirley infants ?

CG: Currently only external providers, onsite or offsite. We have not been instructed to expand. Team spirit and Karate run all the clubs in school. They have run other clubs previously, but didn't have uptake so the clubs were not viable.

RO: As we have a fresh set of parents/ children in the new year is this something we could put out a survey to see if the interest has changed?

CG: If FOSIS can collect the data I can share with Team Spirit

TM: This came from squirrels - it would be good to see some variety.

- 10.2. Music education opportunities - will SIS consider music lessons or clubs for children to learn if the child expresses interest.

CG: There is choir for Year 1 & 2. In Yr 2, children learn the recorder, but clubs and lessons start from KS2 (junior school) where they can participate in a range of music.

- 10.3. Optional Home Projects - These were great home learning projects, could these return?

CG: Home learning Award is replacing this (see agenda item 11).

- 10.4. A parent has chased numbots access via several emails to the school, mentioning to the class teacher and at parents evening but has not received any information. (Beavers).

CG: Was not aware, so will re-issue log in to the whole class to cover all children.

11. Home learning award.

CG: The awards are ready to be shared - wanted to gauge with the group how best to share these with the children.

MA: From the last meeting we discussed that we preferred paper due to the design and colour but were eco conscious. Children will also find more incentive.

RM: It's also practical and easy to remember when it's physical.

CG: Governors will present the citizenship award once children complete all challenges. It looks at key skills that will also help parents. These are goals and skills that they will need as they get older.

The budget will allow for colour. The plan will be a roll out for Easter. Every child will receive a copy of the first one. Once completed, those children who want to participate can collect the additional challenge sheets from the office.

Pupil premium children will be supported if they don't have the same opportunities to complete the challenges at home.

There will be specific letters that we'll publish with the award to give context to parents.

VK: Can these also be published on the website so it can be printed at home.

12. AOB

TM : Communication on lunchboxes not to contain nuts.

CG: This has already been written in Friday's weekly communications in preparation for the event.

Outstanding Actions from November 25 Meeting

Item No.	Action	Responsible	Comments	Complete
5.5	CG to review newsletters to try and make them more accessible for neuro-divergent parents Class rep to speak to parent who raised it and see if they would be willing to review future versions to support the school	CG /IT AC	CG: Autumn 1 if there is any feedback from the parent who requested this. NS: We'll track the rep AC (Annemarie Clayton?) and ask them to provide.	Ongoing
6.10	CG to investigate with the council the possibility of starting up the road closure volunteers again.	CG	NS: Certain PTA members have contacted the council, and monitoring activity done by the council. It's possible that enforcement will be put up. CG: Has not got any additional information from the council, and appreciates if any further updates can be shared.	Ongoing

Outstanding Actions from April 25 Meeting

Item No.	Action	Responsible	Comments	Complete
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8.4	Create a plan to show the entry/exit route that could be shared in comms / Facebook	HB	Ongoing from April meeting	Ongoing
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Outstanding Actions from June 25 Meeting

3	Look into the recording of the hospital activity being uploaded to Google classroom	CG	CG to follow up with staff Update: Year R reps queried if Year R parents were aware of Google Classroom. CG to follow up with staff.	Ongoing
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