

Parent Council meeting minutes - 26th November 2025

(items to be actioned highlighted)

Updates from last meeting minutes:

Ceri-Ann met with our CFS manager who has directed her to some grant applications to support with food provision. We have also been able to apply, and were successful, for a grant towards cooking/kitchen equipment for the community kitchen area through the PTA bank account. Although the area isn't completed yet, we will still be able to use the items in the Family Room and around the school so families can still benefit.

Community shop - the work has still not been able to be started. Our CFS manager is coming to meet with the Headteacher and Ceri-Ann before Christmas to discuss options and what school needs to do to get things going.

Weekenders bags - this term has been so busy that we haven't managed to sort out the bags ready to go back out. Ceri-Ann will delegate this to the team of volunteers but feels that this is not achievable before the Christmas break due to the amount of activities and events going on across the school. We will aim to sort this for the Spring Term. We were able to run 2 Halloween arts and crafts family sessions, which were well attended. PTA have agreed to fund some supplies to run Christmas crafts for families too so members have been asked to create a shopping list ASAP so that these can be ordered.

Membership is still low. Ceri-Ann will ask her uni placement student to help create a new advert that can be shared. If that doesn't work, we will share with local social media groups to encourage further community involvement.

Ceri-Ann thanked members for attending the Camau Bach meetings, both here at our school and the wider community session at Cardiff West Community High School. All members agreed that they'd like to continue working with the project.

Current affairs:

Family questionnaire - whilst we did share our annual family questionnaire at parents evenings in October, Ceri-Ann received many comments from parents that they felt unable to complete it as they wanted to see how and if having a new headteacher changed anything. Parents suggested asking them to complete the questionnaire later in the year. Members felt that this was a reasonable request so have asked Ceri-Ann to re-share the questionnaire in the Spring Term. This means families will have had the whole of the Autumn Term to make any decisions. It was agreed to only share it digitally in spring to help save printing costs. If this is done in the first week or so of term after the Christmas break, Ceri-Ann will hopefully have time to collate the data before our next meeting so that we can scrutinise it.

Clothing - during the meeting, members went on a walkaround of the proposed community shop and kitchen area and noted that we have had a significant amount of clothing donated. Members very kindly offered to spend time sorting the donations to categorise in to 'spares for school use', 'community shop stock' and 'fundraising weigh in donations'. School are running low on spare underwear and socks and stocks of pre-loved uniform have depleted significantly this term. **Ceri-Ann will put out a request to families for donations.**

Busy calendar - Ceri-Ann went through the school diary with members between now and the Christmas break. It was commented how busy it is and if this is putting increased pressure or workload on staff. Ceri-Ann explained that classes have been practising for their festive concerts since half term so it is not all at once and that, as they have done their 'enterprise' topics for the last few years now, preparing for the school fayre, whilst it is still stressful, is a bit easier as it is not new. Ceri-Ann explained that we have a staff wellbeing team here that meets to explore ways to support staff and although workload does come up as an issue every time, it is something that we are aware of and trying to work on. Any suggestions are welcome!

World Children's Day - members really like what School Government have organised for this (a toy drive to donate to refugee families). **Ceri-Ann will pass this feedback on** to Mrs Lewis, who leads School Government.

Parent Power Place - members commented that they were glad that this was continuing to take place again this year. There are so many negative stories and experiences of children's services that they feel it is important to provide opportunities to support families and let them know what their rights and options are.

Talk With Me - members asked for an explanation of this and then asked if this pilot scheme would be extended. Ceri-Ann informed members that even if there is no funding for it, it can be done for a minimal cost and staff have the skills to be able to continue to run it. **Ceri-Ann will mention this conversation at her next Welsh Government FEO meeting.**

Financial support - members questioned if school were still providing sessions where families could get financial support. We have previously had an advisor from Riverside Money Advice come to school for a monthly session. However, engagement dropped off and no one has attended the last few sessions. They are still able to provide support but can no longer justify coming out to school once a month to sit here with no 'clients' for 2hrs. It was agreed that this is understandable and wasting time. We are still able to offer this support, we simply contact them as and when needed to arrange an individual appointment. The advisor is still happy to visit school on those occasions and is contactable by phone and email really easily.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 21st January, 2 - 3pm in the school Family Room.