

Attendee: Erin (reception), Amit (year 1), Richendra (year 2), Alice & Sabrina (year 3), Claudia (year 4), Lynne (year 5), Jo (year 6), Clare, Jo & Matt (school)

Apologies: Sarah, Stuart

### **School Vision**

The results of the parent questionnaire have been shared with Staff and Governors. Next year a steering group of staff, parents & governors will be looking at the vision to decide on what to prioritise within the vision and how to implement it. The steering group would like a parent representative from each year group to attend. The first meeting of this group will be Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February at 3.30pm. Ms Bladen will look into the possibility of providing a crèche.

### **Home School agreement**

It is a statutory to have a home school agreement all felt ours was suitable, but comments are welcome. There was one suggestion to include "Will respect school values". There are 24 of these and they are covered one each month for a 2 year period, this month is Peace, next month is Friendship

### **Homework Project**

There have been mixed opinions from staff, parents and pupils on the homework projects which are completed around October half term and then showcased to the whole school and parents for one day after school.

Some felt the suggestion for it to be A3 helped to make it more manageable others felt it restrained creativity. Projects have come in all shapes and forms over the years including multi media, written work, models, pictures and baking to name a few. Most agreed that timing could be an issue so it should cover more than just half term but increased time should be used to spread out the workload, some teachers have given guidance each week to show how to plan the work and where children should be at each stage. Would be useful to get guidance for how long a project should take to do, so that children and parents know appropriate scale of the project.

Concerns that parental involvement could have negative effects particularly for children who completed projects on their own but may not have looked as impressive as those with parental involvement. Mrs Whiting's instruction gave some lovely guidance on this area. Some felt the projects helps to foster independent learning and a sense of pride of work they know will be showcased. While others felt it was too onerous a task and left children feeling under pressure.

Would like all to consider the views of the Homework project and we expect it to be put to a vote to see if it should continue.

### **Reception & Nursery drop off**

The plan for picking up and dropping off in the main playground was not felt to be working as well as hoped. Currently trialling drop off and pick up in the nursery playground which can be accessed from the playground behind school. It is thought that dropping off elder children first will probably work best for most families.

### **AOB**

#### **Recorder/Music**

Claudia asked about recorder lessons and Jo said these were no longer happening and Jeannie Harrison was only going to continue with the current year 6 recorder group. Brass for all in year 5 (although expensive) will continue. Jeannie does take music lessons with the whole school. There are

2 orchestra's feel free to drop into Orchestra (starter orchestra 8.15am Wednesday and orchestra 8:15am Thursday) if you would like details. Music lessons are shown in the School clubs section on the website. <http://westoxfordschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Clubs-Autumn-2016.pdf> Some music lessons are run privately, many are conducted by the Oxfordshire music service <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/music-service> Year 5 are currently working with Christchurch choir and there will be a performance on 30<sup>th</sup> November to which parents are invited, details will come from Mr James.

### **Remembrance**

A parent has objected to discussions about remembrance/poppies within school. If parents have particular beliefs that they wish to be observed for their child they should talk to school about how these can be accommodated. School felt that remembrance was a good topic for assembly and some lessons as it fits with this month's value of peace and contributes to requirements on British Values. Assembly was part of a BBC series (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/0/ww1/25449508>) and helped to explain why people wear poppies but they were not asking children to buy or wear poppies as this is a personal choice and poppies were not sold at school. Future assembly will be on Peace and the meaning of the white poppy.

### **Teacher Leaving**

School appreciate that it is emotional for children and parents when a member of staff leaves. Parents and children expressed a wish that they could have said goodbye to Mr Fuller and let him know how much his enthusiastic and imaginative teaching would be missed. Parents are pleased with the recruitment of such great teachers and just want to see what can be done to help with retention. Staff leaving is a frequent agenda item at governors meetings (<http://westoxfordschool.co.uk/our-school-2/governors/>) and school are looking into what can be done to help with retention at a school, governor and West Oxford School partnership level. School can't give details on individual reasons for leaving but are pleased to announce that Rebecca Morley has been appointed as a permanent teacher for year 3.

### **Website**

This has been covered in the additional notes and previously but was raised again as it was felt this are still needed improvement. Although Jo does a great job in keeping the calendar up to date individual class areas in particular are noticeable by their lack of recent material. Suggested that if these can't be kept up to date it may be better to change the design so each class is not a link. School are recruiting for additional admin resource and it is hoped this will help with the Website.

### **School security**

New gate options are being pursued, a member of staff usually Matt will be on the gate in the morning.

### **Ofsted**

A parent asked when they are due and school reassured they can come any time and they are always ready to welcome them. Parents can always give their views on the Ofsted website. <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

### **½ Marathon**

Thanks to Gwen Whiting for organising such a large trip from West Oxford school to take part.

### **Internet Meeting**

The West Oxfordshire partnership Internet meeting was well attended and found to be most useful thanks to Nick Speller for the informative talk. Other sessions have previously taken place for staff

and Mr Speller has also run sessions for the pupils and it is often covered within lessons. It is hoped more events like this will happen in the future. Lynne wrote up some notes that have also been attached.

### **Internet Safety notes**

Someone asked if I could pass on details of what I learnt from attending the session so I thought I would share with all of you the bits I thought that were the most useful, some of which was obvious but somehow hearing it again made me think about it a bit more. Something [Nick Speller](#) said regularly during the session was that he was not intending to tell us what we should do as that like any other parenting decision, it is something that is up to us depending on our values, concerns and the needs of our children so please take this email in the same spirit. This is what resonated for me so I hope you will find it helpful but isn't intended to suggest what you should do.

The Online world keeps changing so it is likely (in my case very likely) that your children will find out about stuff quicker than you, by the time a parent has got to grips with stuff then it is probably no longer cool and they have moved onto the next thing. It would be easy to think in that case you can't help but instead of knowing how to deal with individual scenarios we need to think about how we can help in more general terms

For example rather than teaching them to cross each of the roads between home and school, teach them the general rules for safely crossing any road then they can apply those principles to any roads they come across. The same is true of the internet. You can't tell them what to do in every situation they will encounter so try to give them the skills to make good decisions when they encounter something new.

Obvious to us but not always to our children.

People lie on the internet.

Even people you know in real life only put a filtered version of their life online.

What you think you are searching for might not be what you get.

People get paid to put things on the internet, so many [vloggers](#) (people who post video content) are paid to post so are effectively an advert but presented as advice from an online "friend".

If you put stuff on the internet it is in a public place, so even if your settings mean things can't be shared what's to stop other people sharing stuff, taking screen shots and re-posting, once something is out there it is impossible to get back.

When they see porn it is likely to be an extreme view of sexuality but they may think that is the norm. Average age of first viewing porn online is 11.

Encourage your children to tell you if something unexpected happens rather than feel guilty about it. If they get into this habit early they are less likely to hide things later. e.g. "if you find rude pictures online, it isn't your fault, just tell me so I can help".

The part of your brain used to make judgements needed online (e.g. the balance of risk versus convenience - if I store my credit card details and address on Amazon I can checkout faster but what if Amazon gets hacked) does not fully develop until you reach your 20s so children can struggle to make good judgements.

Try to avoid saying no if your children ask to do something online as the danger of doing so is that they are likely to just do it anyway and then if they get scared/concerned about something they are more likely to feel they can't tell you about it as they weren't supposed to be doing it.

If you want to say no - explain why you aren't happy with them doing whatever it is so they understand and while they might not agree at least they now have better knowledge of the risks.

Facebook and many other sites have a minimum age of 13. This is because of [US law](#) so it is not illegal in the UK for children to have accounts on these site (e.g. Instagram is very popular in Y5/Y6), just breaks their terms and conditions but they have to lie when setting up an account.

The internet is the equivalent of the playground after school - a place to talk to your friends. Teens average 60 hours per week online !

Social networks aren't just the more obvious things like Facebook and Instagram, lots of games (e.g. Clash of Clans) include chat functionality so are in effect a social network, this includes even things aimed at very young children.

Some useful info in the [Facebook Safety Centre pages](#)

Children find it much harder than adults to separate the online vs physical world instead seeing one as an extension of the other.

When you think how easy it is to misinterpret emails versus something said face to face you can see how easily things can escalate.

Grooming can take place over several months and the top signs to look for are

Excessive use of the internet

Aggressive behaviour

Secretive behaviour

Change in sexual language

Unfortunately these are also the signs of becoming a teenager, so again most important to keep a dialogue going so they feel they can talk to you about anything.

Online friendships can lead to genuine "real world" friendships so don't ban them - remain open to the idea but set the terms to make sure they are safe e.g. you accompany them the first time and make sure the meeting is in a suitable environment.

Bullying is the biggest risk and the 24/7 nature of online bullying means they get no respite. Many children driven to suicide due to online bullying, Suicide is the 3rd highest cause of child death.

50% of children who are bullied online don't tell anyone. 50% of girls likely to have experienced online bullying by 14.

If you find out about it you should:

1. Offer reassurance and support
2. Keep evidence where you can (emails, chat transcripts, screenshots etc) and tell the school
3. Tell the social network / website so they can remove content and block people if relevant.

Every school in the West Oxford Schools partnership has an Online Safety Coordinator who should be contacted if you have any concerns and can give advice / answer questions

The message the children are told at school is to look after your friends. If you see it happening to someone, try to be the brave one and tell someone you trust so they can help.

You can help with setting up filtering on your home network but remember this only works in your house and lots of online use done outside the home. Routers can be set up so that internet is not available to certain devices between certain hours to help give children some respite from checking phones/tablets all through the night.

Similarly you can request mobile access (i.e. via phones or tablets using a phone sim card) is restricted to certain approved sites. Ask your mobile phone provider.

#### Top Tips

Cultivate an open dialog - keep talking

Don't ban as that closes the door and you won't be asked for help if / when things go wrong

We teach our children to cross roads, watch them when they first walk to school alone, teach them to swim before letting them go to the pool with friends but with the internet we just let them get on with it often with very little guidance it is important to help them find their way.

We were also given a list of really useful links that I have attached, we were shown a few videos which brought stuff home to me in an entertaining way so are worth a look at. My favourite was this one <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aDycZH0CA4I>