

ST MARY CRAY PRIMARY ACADEMY
Notes of the meeting of the Parent Council
held on
Monday 20th July 2026 at 10 AM – 11:15 AM

Present:

Tanya Artmann, Acting Headteacher
Emily Brown, Assistant Headteacher
Laura Bertolotti, PCM
Regina Zyrek, PCM

In attendance:

Secretary: Shraddha J Qureshi

Apologies / Not Present:

Abhishek Kumar
Zoe Bell

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks

• **Headteacher's Introduction**

- Liam Frost has left the school
- Tanya Artmann has stepped up as an acting Headteacher.

• **Attendance and Apologies**

- Received the apologies from Abhishek Kumar and Zoe Bell.

2. Notes & Actions from last meeting

• **Screentime policy in class and afterschool clubs -**

- Screen time is tightly managed during the school day, primarily limited to curriculum-based Chromebook use, with the school remaining largely paper-based and avoiding unregulated device use.
- From the new session, the screen use in breakfast and after-school provision will be reduced and structured, hands-on activities like making bracelets etc will be introduced, ensuring screens are used only in planned, purposeful and limited to educational sessions only.

• **Updates on Forest school uniform structure –**

- School will be re-establishing expectations on what children should wear to ensure they are safe at forest school and provide images to support parents.

• **Sensory garden construction progress –**

- The work being done by the construction company is for free.
- The next phase of the project will need volunteers and donations, like plants etc – which will be advertised through social media.
- Ground works will be complete for September and ready for planting in Autumn term.

- **Homework structure –**
 - The school is moving away from formal homework towards optional curriculum-linked activities, prioritising daily reading and parent-child discussions, as evidence shows these have a greater impact on learning.
 - Optional homework is recognised through Dojo rewards to encourage participation,
 - Homework expectations increase gradually in Years 5 and 6, helping pupils develop independence, organisation, and time-management skills in preparation for secondary school.
 - A survey would be sent in September to the parents.
- **AI and what is the school's role in teaching kids about it –**
 - AI is taught as part of the computing curriculum, helping pupils understand what it is, its benefits, limitations, and the importance of using it safely and responsibly.
 - The school focuses on preparing children for the future by developing critical thinking and informed decision-making about AI, rather than encouraging its direct use in school.
 - The school uses Gemini (Google AI) which is a paid and a secured AI for school.
- **Uniform Swap –**
 - School will make plans to arrange swap/selling of preloved clothes from September.

3. Head Teacher – School Updates

- **DATA -**
 - SATS results this year were very pleasing.
 - Combined Reading, Writing and Maths went up by 16.3% from last year but a bit below the National average.
 - Maths up by 22.1%, Reading by 13.4% than last year. Phonics screening Test achieved the highest ever at 78.3%. This shows the efforts are heading towards the right direction.
 - HT will be doing in depth analysis of the results and work around bringing the results upto the national average.
 - Ofsted assessment due in next year.

- **STAFFING -**

Leavers -

- a) **Mr Peter Harwood** – Doing charity work in India. So he will be partly working here.
- b) **Miss Emily Brown** – Leaving for 2 years for Japan.
- c) **Miss Georgia Duckering** – Leaving to join Midfield Primary.
- d) **Mr Liam Frost** – Left the school

Joiners -

- e) **Mrs Tanya Artmann** – Stepped up as acting Head Teacher till December and possibly longer.
- f) **Mr Carter** – Joining Reception from Midfield.
Miss Brooks – Joining from Midfield as a Deputy Headteacher.
- g) **Mr Beal** – Joining from Crofton as Assistant Headteacher. Teaching Y5 for 2 days.
- h) **Miss Kayley Sharp** – Role change from TA to SENCO Admin.

4. Open Discussion : Hopes/Ideas/Queries

- **Question from Parents –**

- a) School clubs booking deadlines/ad hoc booking/ Flexibility/ summary of the bookings/ payments systems are not user friendly.
 - **HT** – School will reach out to the central team and make the system more flexible from September.
- b) Why the school club got cancelled this Thursday?
 - HT – The PTA had organised fun day and also due to the half day, the staff was less. HT had already instructed the central team to confirm such dates and events in advance to the parents going forward.
- c) Good to have an advance notice for involvement in PTA events.
 - **HT** – This has been communicated to the PTA and from September new term, a minimum of 2 weeks' notice will be given from PTA.
- d) It is difficult to find desired posts in Dojo.
 - HT – Will look into Dojo to make it easier to search. Also will check if the events could be synchronized with the school calendars.
- e) What is being build next to the school?
 - HT - It's a SEMH provision, opening in January, for secondary school children struggling with mental health. School will check how it can collaborate with them and benefit our pupils.

5. Next Steps and AOB (Any Other Business)

- **Confirm date of next meeting**

- **W/C 5th October 26. TBD**

- **Actions agreed / Summary of the session**

- HT to look into Uniform Swap events/arrangements.
- HT to invite parents to join Parent Council with 7 parents in total.
- Homework survey to go out to parents in September.
- Breakfast/After school clubs booking system to be flexible.
- HT to talk to PTA to give advance dates of the events.
- Search to be made easy on Dojo.
- Screentime policy from September
- Sensory garden construction progress.