



Please see email received from Pembrokeshire Local Authority this morning

At its meeting on 14th February the GB discussed the request for a further meeting with parents on 19th February. The parent who was liaising with the Chair of the GB has received a reply, and the GB is sharing the relevant extract with all parents, so that they are made aware of the GB's position.

'Unfortunately the GB felt that this was not a suitable date for a follow on meeting for the following reasons:

- 1) the number of governors who cannot attend (6 out of 14)*
- 2) the fact that we will still not have sight of Mark Austin's action plan and will therefore have nothing concrete to be able to add to the meetings on Monday.*

The GB is happy to arrange an evening meeting after this report has been released and with the half term break from 25th February would suggest an evening of the week starting 4th March.

We are checking with Mark Austin for his availability that week and also with Steve Stretch - if they are able to confirm a date tomorrow then Mrs Vaughan will add the proposed date and time to Friday's newsletter, along with the prepared summary of Monday's meetings. The school is happy to host this third meeting again for ease.

If you have specific questions that you wish to raise in advance of this meeting, can I suggest you send them either by email or in a letter to the school marked for my attention and I will seek to address them with the GB.'

Steve Stretch, as clerk to the GB

A Summary of the Parental Meetings with the Governing Body - 11 February 2019

The Head and Governing Body wish to thank the parents who were able to come to Monday's meetings and hope that the information provided has answered some of the questions that may have been concerning parents following the publication of the ERW report. We understand that a number of parents could not attend either meeting and are happy to arrange a further meeting one evening should this still be required.

We have set out a summary of the main points that arose in both meetings, and welcome further feedback and comment from parents.

Firstly, for the sake of clarity, we feel it is important to repeat that the ERW report is not saying that the school is in 'special measures' or that it is failing.

Generally standards are good within the school. However the Local Authority has identified the following areas which require improvement and the red categorisation ensures that the school will receive increased support and funding. The LA wishes to see:

- increased consistency in the standard of teaching, especially in Maths and English as this will carry improvement into all other subjects;
- increased leadership and accountability at all levels of the school from the GB and Head through to the classroom;

- increased numbers of more able and talented children reaching outcome 6 but also to ensure that all pupils make as much progress as they are able to;
- the development of a skills rich curriculum in line with the new welsh curriculum, which will produce confident, independent learners.

The Local Authority is finalising an action plan to complement the school's own development plan and this is expected next week. It will be provided to parents when received. The Governing Body and the Head have monthly meetings to progress the School Development Plan and the Governing Body and the Head also have monthly meetings with the Local Authority to monitor progress. The Governing Body have undergone a self-review and have restructured in order to better support and monitor the school. Termly monitoring weeks are timetabled and all governors will be involved in challenging the school and its teaching staff to ensure standards are being met and indeed raised.

The Governing Body and the Head have together identified the following areas that require improvement and are working to ensure improvements are made as swiftly as possible:

- Communication with parents – there is a new school app in development and the Class Dojo programme is also under review. A noticeboard will be erected by the school gates so that the Friday newsletter can be displayed as well as being sent home with pupils.
- Transparency – the school website is continually being developed and the school welcomes feedback from the parents about what information they would wish to see displayed on the site. The website address is displayed in the footer of all newsletters. Minutes from the Governing Body meetings have always been available for review and a copy are left in the school foyer. These minutes will be added to the school website going forward but these may require redaction in order to be compliant with the law.
- School vision – this is currently under review and forms part of the School Development Plan. Pupil Voice will form part of this review.
- Standards – how our pupils are assessed has undergone changes in recent years and the new curriculum will bring additional challenges and demands on staff. Teaching staff are undergoing individual assessment to identify strengths and weaknesses in order to ensure appropriate support and training can be provided to the benefit of our pupils. An external company is being brought in to assist with assessment and training and they have already worked well with two other schools in our cluster. The school is also being twinned with another school within ERW and a second outside of ERW and support from those headteachers will form part of the school action plan. Chrysalis training for staff wellbeing was undertaken in January and was well received by staff. Any further requirements will be looked at as part of the school action plan in collaboration with the Local Authority.

On Tuesday morning a gathering of parents took place outside the school gate. A vigorous and loud discussion took place for some time. During that period children, parents and staff members had to walk past and through this discussion. It has been reported that this was quite intimidating and is contrary to ensuring pupil's wellbeing. During the meetings it was raised that pupils should not become aware or involved in the current situation and this incident is not conducive to ensuring parental concern on this matter is adhered to.

School website – The school website is available at <http://spittal-vcp-school.j2bloggy.com/> We are informed that as more people access it for newsletters and dates it will appear in your search engine if you use the words Spittal bloggy. We are currently awaiting feedback regarding GDPR on the documents requested to be made available during the parental meetings on Monday. Please be aware that the old Spittal website <https://www.spittalschool.org.uk/> exists only as a single holding page.

Farewell – We will be saying goodbye to Mrs Myers at the end of this half term. I am sure you will all join us as a school community in wishing her well in her new job.

Class 4 – A reminder that the 1960s afternoon is on Monday the 18th at 2pm in the school hall – Children to wear 1960s costumes or own smart clothes at 9am.

Pupils of the week

	Pupils of the Week	Siaradwr yr wythnos
Class 1	Oliver Evans & Charlie Hopkins	Jonathan Talbot
Class 2	William Evans & Orla Fisher	William Evans
Class 3	Alex LeBreton & Rafferty Morris	Rosie Basford Leslie
Class 4	Tom Perkins & Aaron Parker	Herbert Chaston
Class 5	Freddie Price & Amy Hall	Freya Rands

Scooters of the week

Foundation Phase	Key Stage 2
Jenson Evans	Iwan Roberts

Attendance

Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	Class 5
97.85%	88.77%	96.55%	***99.6%***	97.00%

Dates for the diary –

- Mon 18th Feb – Class 4 – Curriculum coffee afternoon from 2pm in the school hall – Children to wear 1960s costumes or own smart clothes at 9am.
- Thurs 21st Feb – PFA healthy tuck shop – 20p
- Mon 25th Feb – Fri 1st March – Spring half term break
- Fri 8th March – St Davids Day coffee afternoon @ 2pm– warm welcome to all
- Weds 27th – Fri 29th March – Year 5 & 6 residential @ Llangrannog
- Week beginning Mon 1st April – Parents evenings (booking forms available in the lobby from Mon 25th March)
- Mon 15th– Fri 26th April – Easter holiday
- Tues 7th May – Tues 14th May – Welsh National Tests
- Mon 27th – Fri 31st May – May half term break
- Fri 19th July – Last day of summer term for pupils
- **Mon 22nd July – INSET – No school for children**

Yours sincerely



Mrs S. Vaughan, Head teacher

