

School Council Minutes

Date: Friday 24th October 2025

Present: Mrs France; School Council Representatives from Squirrel, Fox and Owl Classes

Apologies: None

Chair: Mrs France

1. Welcome

Mrs France welcomed everyone and thanked reps for their involvement in a very busy and successful first half of the autumn term.

2. Event Feedback

a) Jeans for Genes Day – 19th September

Reps fed back that the day was well-received across the school. Children enjoyed wearing jeans and learning why the charity is important.

Key pupil comments:

“It felt good helping children who have genetic conditions.”

“Everyone joined in, even the teachers!”

“It helped us understand why differences matter.”

Impact:

Raised strong awareness of inclusivity, diversity, and courageous advocacy. Children demonstrated empathy and could articulate why charity days matter.

b) Harvest Festival – 26th September

Council reported very positive pupil engagement. Contributions to the Food Bank were generous and meaningful.

Pupil reflections:

“We gave food to help families who need extra support.”

“The songs and prayers helped us think about gratitude.”

Impact:

Clear links to GROWTH values, especially Gratitude, Outreach and Harmony. Children showed strong understanding of helping their community.

c) Be Bright Be Seen Day – 24th October

A lively, high-impact safety event.

Feedback included:

Children enjoyed wearing neon and reflective clothing.

Classes understood why being visible is important, especially as the evenings draw in.

KS2 pupils linked the day to wider safety learning in PSHE.

Impact:

Increased awareness around road safety and keeping safe in the dark.

d) Black History Month – October

Theme: Celebrating Black British Heroes

Reps said the activities were engaging, meaningful and sparked great discussions.

Examples shared:

Artwork inspired by prominent Black British figures.

Storytelling in EYFS and KS1.

Biographical research and presentations in KS2.

Respectful conversations about equality and fairness.

Impact:

Children showed stronger appreciation of diversity, representation, and the importance of learning from different voices.

3. Review of Early Class Suggestions

Owl Class

More shaded areas outside: added to environmental action plan.

Leadership opportunities: Year 6 “Leadership Badges” being explored for launch after Christmas.

Fox Class

More lunchtime clubs: staff reviewing suggestions; potential new clubs in the new year.

More playground bins: caretaker assessing locations.

Squirrel Class

More small-world toys: items being priced/considered for purchase.

More outdoor story sessions: staff trialling this since September.

4. Library Update

Mrs France shared exciting updates on the new library development.

Design Theme

- Woodland inspiration
- Tree-themed décor and carved wooden details
- Natural colours, calming greens, soft browns and warm lighting
- Cozy reading nooks and low benches for EYFS/KS1
- Research table and book displays for KS2

Current Progress

- Layout approved
- Furniture ordered
- Wall artwork and tree silhouettes agreed
- Photos of the design plans were shared with the council

Next Steps

- New tree survey
- Planning permission
- Planning new book collections

The library remains the number-one item children mentioned in the Pupil Voice Survey, and the council were delighted to see the plans coming alive.

5. Upcoming Dates

Health & Safety Audit: 14th November

SIP (School Improvement Partner) Visit: 21st November

Mrs France explained the SIP's role: reviewing teaching, learning, behaviour, safeguarding and overall school development.

UK Parliament Week: w/c 24th November

Thame Christmas Festival: 3rd December

Chinnor Christmas Tree Festival: 6th–14th December

EYFS Nativity (School Dress Rehearsal): 8th December

Rock Steady Concert: 10th December

Panto Trip: 17th December

Christingle Service: 17th December (afternoon)

Brass Band & Carols in the Playground: Last day of term – 19th December

Council reps will be involved in promoting several of these events.

6. New Class Suggestions

Early ideas gathered from class books included:

Whole School

A school dog to support wellbeing (to be explored carefully with policies and risk assessments).

More clubs, including gardening, Lego, drama and nature clubs.

More pupil leadership roles such as Playground Leaders and Story Helpers.

KS1

Chess club for KS1, with simple games and mini-tournaments.

More story corners outside and in the hall.

KS2

Cross-class buddy reading, especially with EYFS.

More equipment for the field in summer.

All suggestions added to the action plan for review in January.

7. Next Meeting

Date: Monday 19th January 2026

Focus:

Spring Term events

Review of class suggestions

Library update

Pupil responsibilities for new term