

Underbank Primary School



Parent Council Update to School Community

As I near the end of my first year as Chair of the Parent Council at Underbank I have been asked to update the School Community on the activities of the Council.

I will also confess, at the outset, that this is also a conscription drive as the Council is looking to add bodies to increase the statistical probability of me losing my seat. I was initially made to join by my wife, who is very persuasive, and a far better cook than I am. I was elevated to the position of Chair because David (who was highly competent) no longer had children at the school and, regrettably, everyone else had an excuse ready. I held the position on a temporary basis before the Council members very kindly voted me in to start what I anticipate will be (at least) a further 2 year stretch.

Notwithstanding my general incompetence, lack of personality and an absence of any understanding of my role as Chair, things seem to be going reasonably well. As you are all aware we are very lucky to have children enrolled at a very well run school. The teachers and staff are excellent and our children benefit enormously from the support and education they receive at Underbank. The Parent Council strives to supplement that throughout the course of the year and to assist the school in any way that we can. Naturally, the major benefit of membership to the Parent Council is the biscuits that are laid on at the meetings. We have very, very good biscuits. I would go as far as to say they're the best. If that's not enough to convince you to sign up there are other benefits...

These, on a more serious note, are the reasons that I have remained involved with the Parent Council. The Council meetings cover a broad range of topics, all of which are designed to improve the school experience for our children. A good primary education will give a child an invaluable platform to build on as they progress into secondary education and beyond. The value of the education and experience they receive at Underbank cannot be overstated.

In very short compass, the Parent Council gives an excellent insight into every aspect of our children's school lives. Important issues are discussed at the meetings including, but not limited to; parental engagement, funding, road safety, internet safety, the curriculum, school policies, school infrastructure/playground, staffing developments and the annual school improvement plan. The meetings provide the tools to work with the school and our children to ensure the best learning experience possible. They also provide an opportunity to contribute to the school community. The Parent Council has secured hi-visibility vests for all of the children in the school to assist them to travel safely to events within the local area. In addition, the Parent Council has had success in securing funding and grants for equipment used by the school and is currently awaiting the outcome of a funding application with Tesco which will contribute to the school's fund to provide new iPads for use by the pupils. The work undertaken by the Parent Council contributes positively to the school and the education of our children. Anyone interested in assisting is more than welcome to come along to the meetings. Your input will be very much appreciated.

If any of the foregoing is of interest to you (even if it's only the biscuits) please feel free to attend the next meeting. The date has yet to be confirmed but any interested parties can contact me at scott@jnr solicitors.com or look out for the date in the fortnightly update.

Also, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Scott Martin
(Underbank Parent Council Chairperson)