



Parent Forum

Minutes for the meeting held on Monday 18th November 2024 @ 5.30pm

Present:

Year R	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Leadership
Karen Zarb Piscopo	Katrina Hayes	Vacancy	Maurice Mynett	Vacancy	Vacancy	Vacancy	Catherine Whatley
	Brenda Mynett	Vacancy	Vacancy	Vacancy	Vacancy	Vacancy	Sophie Pearson

Item	Information	Actions
1	Welcome	
	Apologies from:	N/A
	Terms of Reference:	Terms of Reference were shared before the meeting. Terms of Reference were agreed by all attendees.
2	Update on:	
	N/A – first meeting	N/A
3	Views on:	
3a	Supporting parents/carers to access information meetings and support their child's learning at home	
	<p><u>Supporting Parents with the Curriculum:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school is committed to helping parents better understand the curriculum and how they can support their children's learning at home. <p><u>Challenges with Parent Information Evenings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historically, parent information evenings have not been well attended despite the school's efforts to accommodate varying needs. Over the past two years, the school has trialled different approaches to increase attendance, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Varying timings (daytime, after school, evenings). Offering a crèche. Hosting online and in-person sessions. <p><u>Improving Communication:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some parents mentioned that communications about events are occasionally missed, which might contribute to low attendance. Social media is widely used among parents and could be a helpful way to raise awareness of upcoming events. 	<p>The school thanked parents for their constructive feedback and will review these suggestions to enhance communication and parent engagement further.</p> <p>Social Media: This approach, combined with word-of-mouth recommendations, could foster a greater sense of community and improve engagement across the school. To ensure this is implemented positively and responsibly, the school suggests that any social media initiative be parent-led, allowing parents to manage it as a space for sharing information and supporting each other. This would create an informal, community-driven platform, while the school continues to maintain its existing official communication channels. The school will explore this option further.</p> <p>The school will prepare a concise summary of our communications policy to ensure clear and easy access to key information to help our community to understand how and where to find updates, announcements, and important messages.</p>



	<p>Word-of-mouth recommendations were also suggested.</p> <p><u>Targeting Information Sessions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents suggested that meetings tailored to specific class groups may encourage better attendance. • Feedback indicates interest in meetings, as parents often inquire about them after they have taken place. <p><u>Feedback on Communication Tools:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive feedback was shared on several tools introduced to improve communication: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Marvellous Me: Celebrated for enabling quick updates and celebrating learning achievements. ○ The School App: Appreciated for consolidating messages and reducing clutter in personal email inboxes. ○ Website Calendar: Praised for its level of detail. ○ Office Reminders: Timely reminders from the school office were highly valued. <p><u>Adjustments to Events:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents appreciated the move of the "Celebration of the Word" to 3:15 pm, which allows more parents to attend. <p><u>Requests for Clarity and Consistency:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some parents asked for clarity on the purposes of different communication platforms (e.g., Marvellous Me vs. The School App). • Consistent and regular reminders about events were emphasized as helpful. <p><u>Suggestions for Improvement:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A printed piece of paper in book bags to highlight upcoming events or messages was requested by some parents. • A "crib sheet" or "top tips" document for each year group at the start of the school year was suggested to help parents navigate the curriculum and key events. 	<p>The school appreciates the suggestion of using printed paper in book bags to highlight upcoming events or messages. However, we have moved away from paper communications to reduce our environmental impact, in line with our commitment to <i>Care for Creation</i>, a key principle of Catholic Social Teaching. As Pope Francis reminds us in <i>Laudato Si'</i>, "small yet strong in the love of God, like St. Francis of Assisi, all of us can make a difference" by taking steps, no matter how small, to care for our common home. We will continue to prioritize sustainable practices and explore other effective ways to ensure parents remain well-informed.</p> <p>The suggestion of a "crib sheet" or "top tips" document for each year group at the start of the school year is greatly appreciated. Currently, we provide maths facts sheets and welcome evening PowerPoints on our website to support parents. We will review additional information that parents may find helpful and consider condensing it into a one-page document for each year group.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some parents noted a 'parental gap' on KS2 playground at the end of the day with what appears to be an invisible boundary between the teachers/children and the parents. Is this an official boundary or could we close the gap? 	<p>The "parental gap" on the KS2 playground is more of a historic habit than an official rule—no invisible fence! That said, a little space is helpful to ensure staff can safely supervise children as they are dismissed and to foster a bit more independence as</p>



		<p>our KS2 pupils prepare for the next big step in their school journey.</p> <p>Parents are very welcome to step onto the KS2 playground at the end of the day to chat with staff or share thoughts—whether positive or constructive. We look forward to these conversations and value the partnership we have with you in supporting your children.</p>
4	Discussion on:	
	<p>**Additional Points Raised During the Parent Forum Meeting:**</p> <p>1. <u>Supporting Connections Among Parents:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some parents feel they are missing out on opportunities to connect with other parents. Suggestions included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sharing names and contact details within a group (where consent is given). ○ Facilitating ways for parents to engage and interact with each other. <p>2. <u>Building Parent Networks:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ideas were shared for improving contact between parents, such as: • Hosting events specifically designed to encourage connections. • Setting up a "phoning circle" or similar initiative to keep parents informed and engaged. • Group encouragement or peer support among parents was suggested as a helpful way to strengthen the school community. <p>3. <u>Positive Feedback on PTA Events:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents expressed appreciation for the social events organized by the Friends of St. John the Baptist (FOSJB), which have been effective in fostering community spirit. • A request was made to consider adding more such events to the school calendar throughout the year. 	<p>The school will consider these suggestions and explore additional ways to support parent engagement and strengthen the school community.</p> <p>Social Media/phoning circle: as above</p> <p>The school will share feedback with the PTA so they can consider possible future events.</p>
	<p><u>Future Parent Forum discussions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homework • Sports day • Masses and Celebration of the Word 	

Next Meeting – 27th January 2025 at 5.30pm