

LCPS Parent Forum



Minutes : Parent Forum Meeting	
Date:	26th November 2025
Present:	Miss Lomas Mr Hacking Mrs West Andy Cockburn R/Yr2/4
Item	Discussions / Actions / Outcomes
Welcome – purpose, values & conduct	<p>Purpose:</p> <p>Empower parents through participatory decision-making, feedback on school direction, and inclusive provision.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Participation: Active involvement and voice in leadership. ● Feedback: Input on developments and strategic planning. ● Improvement: Idea generation and suggestion. <p>Values:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Readiness, Respect, Resilience, Courage, Empathy, Integrity. <p>Conduct:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Open, honest, solution-focused forum. ● Staff respect. ● Transparent communication via website.
Review of previous meeting	<p>Edible Garden: Noted significant progress and strong curriculum integration. Recommendations focus on enhancing parent engagement (e.g., "Growing 101" sessions, clear volunteer process) and optimising session scheduling. Action steps include creating a parent volunteer sign-up and possibly producing a termly video story.</p> <p>Homework: Discussed the ambiguity of the current optional homework policy and research showing zero impact on attainment. The primary focus remains on reading as the cornerstone of success, with initiatives like "Reading as Homework" and a curated "50 Recommended Reads." A clear, research-backed policy is needed moving forward: Introduction of Sparx Readers and Century platforms</p> <p>Parent Class Reps & Communication: Agreed on establishing clear WhatsApp expectations/guidelines for class reps and utilizing it for community building and collating parent questions. Key communication actions include updating the website, publishing all PTA dates consistently, and implementing a public Google Calendar for all school events.</p>

	<p>School Lunches: Agreed to implement a new menu and taster evening (concurrent with parents' evening) in collaboration with Chartwells, based on School Council feedback. Menu enhancements include a daily salad bar, improved chicken, and twice-weekly meat-free options.</p> <p>Newsletter: Recommendations for enhancement include prioritising key dates and school-wide events, reducing class-specific updates, and creating a consistent format with a clear "To Do This Week" list.</p> <p>Allergies: In response to a request to inform parents of any events requiring information where substitutions need to be made available, Adopted Natasha's Allergy planning table for trips</p>
<p>Homework: Sparx and Century Platforms</p>	<p>Pilot Outcome Summary:The pilot for Sparx Readers received overwhelmingly positive feedback, reaching a 95% positive rating from participating users. The program successfully and significantly raised pupil engagement with reading. Furthermore, the embedded activities were found to significantly support and improve student comprehension skills.</p> <p>Parental/Technical Challenge.The primary negative feedback concerned the technological engagement required. Specifically, parents expressed concern that children were asking for their personal devices (phones) immediately after completing reading sessions to access reward feedback mechanisms. Solutions proposed for review: Time-Shift Approach: Encourage families to shift the task completion, where the reading session occurs in the evening, and the reward feedback/task is managed the following morning. Collaborative/Adult-Led Approach: Promote the use of the app as a collaborative tool, where the parent accesses the application, asks the child the appropriate comprehension questions, and manages the reward feedback. This ensures only an adult uses the device for the technical interaction.</p> <p>The latest 50 top readers for children, which are all available as hard copies in our school library, have been requested to be added to Sparx readers.</p> <p>The review of the Century Platform for homework (Years 2-6) received overwhelmingly positive feedback. The main point of discussion centered on the proper use of technology for homework. While there was a general concern about screen time, it was agreed that using the Century Platform is a healthy and legitimate way to engage with technology. Parents are generally supportive of technology use when applied effectively for an educational outcome. To address concerns regarding device usage and screen size, the Platform could be accessed on a laptop or desktop instead of a mobile phone promoting focused learning.</p>

<p>Augmenting Income: Paddle Courts</p>	<p>A proposal was presented to explore the feasibility of installing three paddle courts on school grounds as an initiative to augment school income. Estimated Revenue: The paddle courts are projected to potentially generate £10,000 per year in commission. The CEO of The Chess Valley Trust has currently placed this initiative outside the authorisation remit of LCPS. Discussions and negotiations regarding the project's authorisation and feasibility are ongoing. Further talks and negotiation updates are anticipated in early 2026.</p>
<p>Coffee Mornings</p>	<p>Coffee Morning Schedule and Frequency</p> <p>It was agreed that school-wide coffee mornings would be most effective when placed at the launch of the September term (e.g., as a welcome/introductory event). Change in Frequency: The previous proposal for a twice-termly schedule was revised/discontinued in favor of the September launch event. Independent Class Rep Activity: The group noted that most year group class representatives already organise coffee mornings for their specific classes independently, fulfilling the need for smaller, more localised gatherings.</p> <p>Communication Channels for Parental Concerns. Current Informal Channels: The school gate was acknowledged as an existing informal opportunity for parents to raise minor issues or engage with staff/other parents. Formal Channels: Parents are reminded to continue using the usual channels, such as emailing, to raise more significant or formal issues. Utilising WhatsApp for School Communication. Discussion Point: A discussion ensued regarding the use of WhatsApp groups within the parent community. Suggestion: A proposal was made to build WhatsApp communities managed by the school. These communities would operate as a one-way channel of communication from the school to parents, serving as an information platform.</p>
<p>Parent Enrichment Survey</p>	<p>Positive feedback. The survey fully supported the enrichment activities that are offered at LCPS.</p>
<p>AOB</p>	<p>Smart Phone Free Childhood - Introduction at Reception parent meetings summer term to continue. Communication sent out via google classroom occasionally as an engagement post.</p> <p>Concern Raised: Protein Content in Lunches: A parent raised a concern regarding the perceived insufficient protein content in the meals provided by the current children's lunch provider. Chartwells' menus currently meet all mandatory food standards requirements.</p> <p>Focus on Fibre: The discussion highlighted that while protein is important, current evidence suggests that a significant number of children in the UK do not consume sufficient fibre in their diets. It was agreed that ensuring adequate fibre intake is a crucial nutritional priority for children's health.</p>

	<p>Future Provision Exploration. Kitchen Development. LCPS is actively exploring the option of developing our own kitchens and transitioning to cooking meals on-site. This exploration aims to offer greater control over menu composition, nutritional content, sourcing, and potentially better address specific parental and nutritional concerns in the future.</p>
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