

LCPS Parent Forum



Minutes : Parent Forum Meeting

| Date: | Wednesday 19th March 9.00-10.00am |
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| Present: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rachel - Year 4/2 ● Raji - Year R ● Katie - Year 1 ● Melissa - Year 3 ● Anand Year R ● Chloe - Year R/3 ● Khilna - Year 5 ● Jorose - Year R ● Luxsika- Year R/ 3 ● Utkarsh - Year 1 ● Andy - N/Year 1/3 ● Vanessa - Year 2 ● Rebecca - Edible Garden Co-ordinator ● Fiona - Governor - Year 1 ● Bavisha - Year 1/4 ● Mr Hacking ● Mrs West |
| 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. |

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| <p>Review of previous meeting</p> | <p>Childhood Unplugged Initiative. Feedback from Andy</p> <p>Subject: Implementation of Smart Phone and Social Media Delay Strategy</p> <p>Key Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Parent Pact Promotion: Delay Smart Phones until 14, Social Media until 16 parent pact was presented and discussed. Initial feedback indicates strong support, with 80% of Year 1 parents and 50% of Year 2 parents expressing approval. ● Key Stage 2 Engagement: Informative sessions were conducted with Key Stage 2 students, resulting in positive feedback and demonstrating a discernible impact on student attitudes toward smartphone ownership and children opting out of use. ● Guest Speaker Presentation: Nova Eden delivered a presentation on 19/3/25 titled "Parenting in a Digital Age," providing valuable insights and fostering productive dialogue among attendees. ● Policy Proposal: A proposal to implement a "No Smart Phone" policy on school premises will be presented for consideration in September. ● Next Steps: Follow up with parents to increase parent pact participation. Finalize policy document. |
| <p>Editable Garden-enrichment/development /expansion</p> | <p>Review and Recommendations for the Edible Garden Co-ordinator</p> <p>Overall Assessment:</p> <p>The Edible Garden Co-ordinator/2021 initiative has demonstrated significant progress in establishing a valuable educational resource. The integration of curriculum across multiple disciplines, coupled with practical skill development and environmental awareness, is commendable. Rebecca's dedication and the community support, including the donated log cabin and Cytiva-funded polytunnel, are key assets.</p> <p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Curriculum Integration: Successful cross-curricular integration, including seasonality and kitchen applications, has been achieved. ● Skill Development: Students are gaining practical skills with age-appropriate tools and a focus on tool safety. ● Environmental Education: The initiative effectively addresses microclimates, solar profiles, and sustainability, fostering an understanding of climate change. ● Community Engagement: The establishment of garden guardians, Eco council involvement, and efforts towards carbon offsetting demonstrate a strong community focus. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Resource Development: The donated log cabin and Cytiva-funded polytunnel provide valuable resources for the garden. ● Rebecca's Dedication: Rebecca's exceptional work is acknowledged and highly valued. ● Year Group Input: Tailored year-group curricula, with designated growing projects and half-termly garden sessions, ensure high engagement and enriching learning. <p>Recommendations for Enhancement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Enhance Parent Engagement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Implement a "Growing 101" session for parents, potentially as a paid session through the PTA, to build gardening confidence. ○ Establish a clear pathway for parent volunteers, directing interested parents to contact Rebecca for support via the school office. ○ Organise regular garden tours and social events to foster community involvement and showcase the garden's progress. ● Optimize Session Scheduling: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strategically curate the timing of garden sessions to maximize student engagement and learning opportunities. ○ Consider establishing a dedicated gardening club to provide consistent opportunities for skill development. ● Develop Multimedia Documentation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Create termly video stories to capture and share the garden's progress, student experiences, and educational outcomes. ● Clear communication: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Create a clear communication plan to show the benefits of the garden to the wider school community. <p>Actionable Steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Create a volunteer sign-up process and communication protocol for parents. ● Plan and promote upcoming garden tours and social events. ● Produce the first video story to document the garden's impact |
| <p>Homework- Are the changes working?</p> | <p>The issue of homework, particularly its impact on student attainment, has become a subject of considerable debate within our school community. While some advocate for its continued use, others argue for a more flexible or even eliminated approach.</p> <p>The current policy of optional homework, with a flexible deadline but no mandatory submission, has proven to be divisive. Research indicates</p> |

that homework has zero impact on attainment, a finding that challenges traditional educational practices.

Reading: The Cornerstone of Success:

A significant point of emphasis is the critical role of reading in academic achievement. Approximately 70% of the curriculum relies on strong reading skills. "Reading to succeed" is not merely a slogan but a fundamental principle. To reinforce this, we have implemented several initiatives:

- **Reading as Homework:** Encouraging reading as a primary form of homework aligns with our focus on foundational skills.
- **50 Recommended Reads:** A curated list of 50 recommended books is readily available on the school website, providing students and parents with valuable resources.
- **Weekly Library Trips:** Regular visits to the library foster a love of reading and provide access to a wide range of materials.

Foundation Stage and Key Stages 1 & 2:

We are actively promoting reading across all key stages. Reception parents have expressed inquiries regarding strategies for questioning and developing comprehension implemented in early years. Furthermore there was discussion around project-based learning being utilized to engage students and enhance their understanding of core concepts.

Considerations and Recommendations:

The school administration will ultimately have to engage in a thorough reflection and discussion to arrive at a decision that benefits both staff and pupils. The current homework policy, while intended to be flexible, has created ambiguity. Moving forward, the following points should be considered:

- **Clear Policy Definition:** A well-defined homework policy, supported by research and aligned with educational goals, is essential.
- **Reading Prioritization:** The focus on reading as a primary driver of academic success should remain paramount.
- **Staff and Parent Engagement:** Open communication and collaborative decision-making are crucial to address concerns and ensure buy-in from all stakeholders.

Parent Class Reps -
-Whatsapp
expectations/guidelines

Communication Strategy - Proposals and Recommendations

1. **Website:** Ensure all core information is current and easily accessible on the school website.
2. **WhatsApp Integration:**

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Establish clear guidelines for WhatsApp class reps. ○ Schedule a meeting with class reps to review guidelines and procedures. <p>3. PTA Communication:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Publish PTA dates consistently in the school newsletter. ○ Add all PTA dates to the school calendar. <p>4. Centralized Calendar:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Implement a public Google Calendar for all school events. ○ Define and manage access rights for the Google Calendar. ○ Enable calendar syncing for easy personal integration. ○ Feed all relevant calendar information into the main school google calendar. <p>5. Community Building:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Utilise WhatsApp to create a school community for broadcasting key messages. ○ Class reps collate parent questions via WhatsApp to minimize impact on the school office. ○ Reps to share downloadable links as required. <p>6. Newsletter Enhancements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Include relevant downloadable links within the newsletter. ○ Review newsletter format |
| <p>School lunches – Chartwells food tasting before parents evening</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chartwells Collaboration: Implement new menu and taster evening (concurrent with parent evenings) following School Council feedback. 2. Menu Enhancements: Following School Council feedback directly to Chartwells <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Establish a daily salad bar. ○ Improve chicken quality and introduce diced potatoes. ○ Offer meat-free options twice weekly. ○ Provide separate vegetable servings. 3. Standards Review: A review of the school food standards (2011) has already been suggested by Mr Hacking and enquiries made to local MP's to see if this can be actioned 4. Calendar Reminders: Implement calendar reminders on the website to alert parents to book meals after holiday periods. |
| <p>Newsletter – Coverage and Engagement</p> | <p>Content Focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Prioritize key dates and school-wide events. ● Reduce individual class-specific updates. ● Continue use of photos. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Include a clear "To Do This Week" list. <p>Format & Publishing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Establish a consistent newsletter layout. |
| AOB | Please notify parents of children with allergies <i>prior</i> to any class event involving food, allowing them to provide safe alternatives for their child's inclusion. |