



Inspiring everyone to **R.E.A.C.H** through
Faith, Hope & Love

Parent Forum: Agenda

Date and time: Wednesday 5th November 2025

Attendees: Mrs Howells (lead), Mrs Carr (minutes), Mrs Wooldridge, Nona Rushton, Gemma Wilkins, Alexa Timbrell, Gemma Allen and Sylvie Fox.

What to discuss

TOPIC TO DISCUSS	TIME
Reminder of Forum's terms of reference	5 minutes
Actions for last meeting	5 minutes
Opportunities for parents to come into school	20 minute
Playtime at St Joseph's	20 minutes
Suggestions for discussion at future forums	10 minutes.

Minutes

Introduction about what a Parent Forum is - to discuss issues in the school, come up with solutions and is parent voice.

Reminder of Terms of Reference and maintaining confidentiality.

Start with the actions - Kids with bricks- clarify the children can work on their own.

Parents raised clubs ending at different times: we have changed this so all clubs end at 4:15.

Amazon wish list - parents can donate. List hasn't been done yet.

Stroud festival - consider the value of it. We changed the wording in the letter. In the group chat there was a discussion "this cost £3 why are we paying £4" and another parent reminded them another author came in.

The cost of the author was about £300. So that is why.

Parent questions- "I couldn't get my parent pay to work, can I pay retrospectively" yes - you can.

We don't do screens at home so why is this on a screen. We could go to Stroud but when we add transport, it becomes unmanageable with the costs. And there is the travel time too. So that's why we stream rather than travel. Parent reps posted on WhatsApp and it is mainly what was discussed. Some parents did raise the issues.

Year 5 parents want a bus for ongoing trips. BC will put out a letter with the trip details and costing, and then if there isn't enough uptake - it will be cancelled.

Swimming came up - swimming has changed for this year.



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If the communication about trips is well ahead of time, so the budgeting can be better for the parents. Parents can set up standing orders. CH explained that some of the trips have had to change which is why there is a delay.

Making the communication clear how much the school gets for free. Make sure how our budgets are transparent. The more transparent we are, the more parents will understand. CH said details are always laid out in the newsletter.

Opportunities for parents in school

- Phonics evening
- Mystery reader
- Story time at the convent
- Soup kitchen
- KS1 harvest
- Remembrance
- Retreats and Stations of the Cross
- Class mass
- Nativity
- Carol concert
- Community carols
- Christingle
- Parents evening
- World Book Day
- Music concerts
- House music competition
- Year 4 violin concert
- Dance performance
- End of club celebrations
- Health week
- British science week
- Sports day
- Celebration of whole school activity
- Whole school picnic
- PTA events

Sports day got moved because of the Y6 transition days.

Ideas from parents:

- ✓ Reception parents to come in - Gemma Allen volunteered to talk about lunchboxes. Form part of the welcome discussion and form part of the pack.
- ✓ Evening of different agencies to discuss SEN and mental health support (Gemma Allen). Like when the police came in. If we put on a showcase of this, then it will put more onus on the parents because we can say they were signposted.
- ✓ Faith should be promoted more as a mental health support. And the regularity of Mass which is another resource and parents are invited. This needs to be much clearer in the newsletter.
- ✓ Healthy children flourish from healthy parents so we should support parents more by sign posting them to services.
- ✓ Very positive response about how many opportunities there are for parents to come in - more than other schools. Parents recognised it was not an exhaustive list.
- ✓ Question about the retreats and how they work. Praise about Fr Philip's homily.

Play time at St Joseph's

Rationale: we have children with needs and can't cope with the lack of structure so we are meeting the needs of the most vulnerable children

Just outside Y6 - Disco section on Monday

Sports zone on the main playground

Imagination zone with the stage, reading zone and outdoor classroom



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Adventure zone with the log trail
Prayer garden

Resources are provided every day and the children have different resources each day
We are on Phase 1 at the moment
Phase 2 is to include the nature zone and traditional games zone
Zones will be opened and closed to ensure that we don't have boredom

Of course there is a cost, but parents have been REALLY generous with supporting this through donations of unwanted toys from home.

We have new things like dressing up, role play, colouring, Lego, small toys. Sports zones are separate and we have new goal posts that were bought over the summer. There are lots of opportunities for the children to develop their skills in other sports.

Ideas:

- ✓ Behaviour of children - adults are eyes on. What's the system to communicating to parents? If there has been conflict and there is a loss of reach time which is then communicated to parents. We would only communicate with parents if there was consistent behavior/injury/REACH time loss.
- ✓ Learning for Peace - make a website page with all the key sentences. Demonstration lesson with parents, the stem sentences for the parents to know how to help with children squabbling at home. Homework for one week - set the stem sentences for the children to try at home. Tick sheet for parents to use the wordings when there is a conflict. Children can hold the parents accountable in conflict too. Nona happy to work with us as a parent support worker (unofficially) and to work with us on "parenting" advice to bring the continuity between parents and school.
- ✓ Positive response about playtime.
- ✓ Sensory need missing - BC talked about the science sensory zone. There are charities to help so BC can look into it with Gemma A's help. BC's idea- sensory bag at playtime?
- ✓ Sensory - daily mile would really help with dysregulation so that the children don't bring the behaviours in.

Topic for potential future discussion

Parents don't like the saving up of REACH time and there is too long in between rewards. This came from pupil voice – previously, they only got 15 minutes and they didn't value it very much. They preferred a longer amount of time and bigger treats. We have principles coming in from the MAT and so at the moment we are keeping it how it is until they come in, then we will review – starting with the children.

Parents said they thought their children were being separated in the playtime zones. Children don't get the same story so CH will put in the newsletter.

Some parents find the newsletter too big - but we have it like that so it is not constant communications. But we do it with subheadings so parents can skim and scan.

Parents to take pictures of the Powerpoint to send on the WhatsApp – all information will be on the website after the meeting with a link to the webpage.

Parents don't automatically think about going onto the website. Even just a reminder to the website. Parents thinking of posting the links to blogs or relevant websites to go onto the WhatsApp. Parents suggested a poll on WhatsApp to see how much traffic etc. There are going to be some parents that won't engage. It is important that school continues the high quality communications to the parents.
Visuals as much as possible are appreciated by some parents.



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Agreed actions

ACTION	BY WHOM
Parents to be informed about the changes to playtime in the newsletter	CH
Learning for Peace – update PSHE page on the website to include details of this new school initiative	RC
For school to consider modelling a lesson in order to share sentence stems with parents. Supporting them to use the same language at home to manage conflict. Spring term 2026	CH and RC
To consider the sensory support available at break times – sensory bag, science trail.	RC and CP

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 26th February 9am