

Parent Forum Minutes – Wednesday 22nd October 2025

Lunches

Query:

Would it be possible to offer one day fruit or yogurt as dessert for everyone?

We will ask the catering team for this to be incorporated into the new menus in January. We will ask for fruit as in the past the yoghurt has never been popular with the children and it always resulted in a lot of waste.

Query:

Will it be possible to provide napkins for lunch?

There are always napkins available for the children at lunchtime. We will make it clear to the children that they can of course help themselves to a napkin.

Query:

Could 5–10 minutes be added to the 30-minute lunch break to give the children a bit more time to eat and digest properly?

Our school day is built around a carefully planned timetable to make sure that all aspects of the curriculum are delivered effectively, while also providing children with time to eat and play. Understandably, the children can sometimes become distracted by talking with friends during lunch. With this in mind, rather than extending the overall lunch period, we will ensure that within the existing half an hour of eating time, there is a specific period where the focus is solely on eating. This helps make the best use of the time available and supports children in developing healthy and consistent eating routines.

Query:

Can Reception class parents receive a brief note from the teacher in charge about how much the children have eaten?

It isn't possible for staff to provide individual daily notes for each of the 30 children due to time constraints. However, please be assured that staff always monitor the children during mealtimes to ensure they are eating something. If we ever have any concerns about your child not eating or notice a significant change in their eating habits, we would always let you know.

Query:

Could the children eat in the hall on Wednesdays instead of in class?

Due to music lessons going on in the hall all day on Wednesdays, it is not possible (with the exception of Reception class) to have lunch in the hall and have the hall cleared in time for music lessons to begin again. However, the classrooms are thoroughly cleaned by the catering staff after the children have eaten in class to ensure hygiene standards are maintained.

Homework

Query:

Times tables learning in Year 2.

The children begin learning their times tables in Year 2 with the national curriculum specifying the 2, 5 and 10 times tables, however, we go beyond this. Times tables homework will start being sent home from the spring and summer term.

Query:

Query about access to Times Tables Rockstars.

All children in the Juniors should have logins for TTRS – any children who are unsure of theirs will be reissued with their login details.

Clubs**Query:**

Football Club (Dingoes): there are several comments about the Football Club being expensive.

Dingoes is responsible for hiring the football courts at St Luke's themselves, and this comes at a substantial cost. This likely contributes to the higher price compared to some other providers.

It's also important to note that Dingoes offers a wraparound service that not many other football clubs provide - they collect the children directly from school and run the session for up to an hour and a half. This is longer than most after-school football clubs who often require parents to bring their children to the venue themselves.

The pricing structure is set by the provider and is based on the running costs of the club, including venue hire and staffing. We have communicated parents concerns to Dingoes and will keep in touch with parents on this matter.

Query:

Would it be possible for the school to offer a Tennis Club?

Unfortunately, our roof playground does not offer adequate space for tennis lessons.

Query:

Italian club seems to be designed for Italian speaking children only.

This is something to raise with the club provider, who will hopefully be able adapt the learning for beginners in Italian.

Query:

Extra preparation for Banding tests and in verbal and non-verbal reasoning for Year 5?

Due to curriculum restraints, this is not something we are able to offer within school. We are also currently at full capacity in terms of after school clubs and so recommend that parents look at some preparation material with their children outside of school. All bookshops with a 'children/education' section have a wide selection of both verbal and non-verbal reasoning materials.

Query:

Can the children use the afterschool club to do homework?

Mason, who runs Active Day Camps, is always happy and willing to support children with their homework. However, I would recommend that parents with children in the Juniors who would like them to complete their homework in Active Day Camps, encourage their child to get their homework out independently which is what a number of children already do. The staff in Active Day Camps are then always happy to support where they can.

Query:

The waiting list for piano lessons is very long.

We have asked Piano Fun Club for an extra piano teacher in order to facilitate more lessons and are waiting for them to confirm who our new teacher will be to then be able to offer lessons to children on the waiting list.

Other**Query:**

Could the children be organised for performances (Christmas and others) so that parents can see them.

Copied from last summer 2025 Parent Forum Minutes:

As I'm sure you can appreciate, seating 90 children for the Nativity is always very carefully considered but will inevitably always result in some children being harder to see. This is why every child in Year 1 and Year 2 has their moment on the stage and Reception also walk around the hall when they sing their song. Reception children will take on bigger roles in the Nativity as they move up through the Infants, giving parents more opportunity to see them.

Query:

Concern over children eating in front of the television when it is lunch in class and how often things are being watched on the screen in the classroom.

We will no longer be having anything watched on the screen during lunch in class. Instead, the children will be listening to audio books, as well as doing some calm activities if they have finished eating, such as colouring, drawing, wordsearches, puzzles etc. I am also creating some 'conversation starter' cards to support the children in engaging in interesting conversations with their classmates during mealtimes.

Query:

Prospect of zebra crossing outside school and Cale Street being closed during drop off and pick up time.

For families who are new to the school, it's important to know that we have spent several years appealing for a zebra crossing to be installed directly outside the school. Unfortunately, the council has confirmed that this will not go ahead, due to the existing zebra crossing further down Cale Street.

We have also explored the option of joining the School Streets scheme, which would involve closing Cale Street during peak times. However, the council advised that this would cause too much disruption to local traffic and therefore isn't a viable option. They did offer to close Bury Walk instead, but as this is already a very quiet road, we felt the impact on residents would outweigh the benefit.

In addition, we've requested that barriers or bollards be installed alongside the pavement directly outside the front of the school to improve safety. This has been raised with the RBKC Highway Safety team, and a proposal to install gates outside the school is currently under consultation. These processes can take several months, but we do have a representative speaking on our behalf to ensure the school's concerns are heard. In the meantime, RBKC is supporting our efforts by providing pedestrian and scooter training for pupils. Extra signage has also been placed at the entrance to Cale Street to alert drivers to the presence of a school, and new no-parking markings have been added to Bury Walk to help improve safety during busy times. We will continue to update on any developments.

Query:

Would it be possible to have a Christmas Mass for children and parents?

We already have a number of special events during Advent that families are warmly invited to. These include our nativity plays and the very special Carol Service held at the Brompton Oratory. Throughout Advent, our

assemblies are focused on the liturgical year, and our pupil chaplaincy team leads liturgies to help guide the school through this prayerful time.

Query:

Can the children attend Mass during school time on key feast days - such as Ash Wednesday or perhaps once a term?

They do! All special Feast Days are celebrated with a Mass in school led by Fr James, for example the Feast of Epiphany, Ash Wednesday, the Feast of St Peter and St Paul, as well as our beginning of year mass, whole school Benediction service in the summer term and our Class Family Masses that all parents are very much encouraged to attend. The liturgical year is also at the heart of our RE curriculum and all weekly assembly themes, helping the children deepen their understanding of the Church's calendar and how it relates to their daily lives.

Query:

Can we get and updates on how our children are doing at school before the November parents' evening?

In Reception, the first half of the autumn term is very much focused on helping children transition smoothly into school life, settle into new routines, and build strong, trusting relationships with staff and peers. This period is also important for teachers to carry out Baseline assessments, which help us understand each child's individual starting points so that we can plan effectively for their learning. By the time we hold our first set of parents' evenings in November, teachers have had the time to really get to know your child and can provide meaningful, personalised feedback. That said, if any concerns arise before then, teachers would of course be in touch with parents, and we also encourage parents to do the same in order to sustain a strong partnership.

Query:

Can the paint used in class be ones that do not stain clothes?

We have ensured that the brand that was ordered that was staining clothes, has not been ordered again.

Query:

Can there be more traditional English songs and hymns during school performances and nativity plays?

More traditional carols are always integrated into the Infant nativity play (as well as the Junior Carol Service) and we also sing a number of traditional songs in singing assemblies and in the children's music lessons, as well as incorporating a wealth of musical genres from around the world to give the children a broad and inclusive musical experience.

Query:

More traditional stories for children in the Infants to take home for reading homework.

In the Infant classes, we follow the Jolly Phonics programme for early reading, and as part of this, the reading books sent home are carefully matched to the specific sounds the children have recently learned in class. This approach is in line with government and Ofsted expectations to ensure that children are developing strong phonics skills as a foundation for reading. Alongside these phonics books, each child also brings home a 'reading for pleasure' book, which they choose themselves from our varied selection, including many traditional stories. We are currently ordering a number of new books children can select as their reading for pleasure books, including lots of non-fiction books and some children's books about Saints. We also very much encourage families to visit their local library, where you can explore an even broader range of books together.

Query:

Would be nice for the children to have a prayer book which they keep in school.

Every class has a prayer book which is displayed on their altar in their classroom. This is full of all of the prayers that we say together in school and also used for the children as a guide when they lead our weekly Act of Worship sessions in class. We are in the midst of updating our school prayer book which will be published and then given to each child as a memorable gift when they leave the school at the end of Year 6.

Query:

Halloween themed party in school.

I am sure the children will enjoy their celebrations during half term on Halloween, however, we won't be providing a Halloween party within school. Last year, the spending on Halloween in the UK reached nearly 600 million, money which could be much better spent on those in need. As currently typically celebrated, Halloween is a commercial festival with no acknowledgement of its Christian roots. Therefore, we will be teaching the children of the true meaning of Halloween and that it in fact means 'holy' and helps us to prepare for All Saint's Day the following day.

Query:

Is the PTA a registered charity like the Newman Fund?

Yes. The PTA fundraises through cake sales and the PTA social events. We then work in collaboration to focus on projects that we would like PTA fundraising to go towards. For example, following the success of the PTA Club night last summer, we were able to fund a specialist PE teacher and this year the focus for PTA fundraising is for new play equipment for the roof playground.

Query:

Trip to the British Museum for Year 5?

Year 5 will be attending the British Museum to support their learning on the Ancient Egyptians, as well as taking part in a full day workshop in the first week of January in which the children will participate in the story of Tutankhamun's reign through a combination of practical making activities, drama and role-play.

Query:

Classical Poetry - Would welcome more classical poetry in the curriculum.

Although the poems that the children are performing in assembly are modern poems, there is much classical poetry threaded through the curriculum in the poetry learning that they have been doing in their English lessons.

Query:

Pick up can become congested and crowded in the hall.

Whilst it's not a perfect solution, given our space constraints and the priority to keep the children safe, our current pick-up system ensures this. Mr Toro is always on the entrance/exit door and I am then just inside too. No child is allowed to leave the school without being dismissed by their class teacher with their designated adult. We ask parents to abide by the one-way system when entering the hall and not to stay in the hall to chat to avoid congestion and keep the queue moving as quickly as possible. Many thanks for your support on this.

Query:

Will the school allow fleece lined green rain jackets when the weather is wet?

Yes, bottle green fleece lined rain coats are allowed for when we have rainy weather.