



*Empowering children to lead fulfilling lives*

**Parent Forum: Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

Parent Reps: Mrs Barnard and Mrs Proctor (Reception) Mr Nicholl (Year 1), Mrs Budd (Year 2), Mrs Page (Year 3), Mrs Cuthbertson (Year 4), Mrs Smith (Year 5), Mrs Stow (Year 6).

Apologies: None

**Actions from previous meetings:**

Class	Action	Status

**Items discussed**

Year Group	Points Discussed	Actions
Reception	<p>Comment: Our thanks to the Reception team; Ms Shorthouse, Mrs Kemp, Mrs Miles and Miss Sweeney for their incredible efforts in welcoming this year's cohort. The children all appear content and enthusiastic about coming into school each day, and we've noticed how well they are being supported and challenged, both in their learning and their personal wellbeing. It is clear that the teachers have gone to great lengths to ensure the children feel settled, confident and valued as part of the school community.</p> <p>A: Thank you for these lovely comments. We will pass them on to the Reception team.</p> <p>Qu: Please can we have more notice for the sessions parents can attend during the working day?</p> <p>A: We completely understand that working parents and carers need notice for events. Diary dates are set and sent out at the end of the previous term, and Mrs Weston makes sure that for parents joining Reception, they are set up on Classlist quickly to ensure they get all the information they need. Our key dates are also on the website. We will continue to review practices to ensure that parents get information they need to plan ahead.</p>	



	<p>Qu: The panelling that has been installed on the wall behind the stage can make your eyes go fuzzy.</p> <p>A: Sorry to hear this! We will try to make sure we close the curtains for talks and assemblies in the Hall, where possible. We also discussed the possibility of putting up some images to break up the vertical lines – we will get planning for this.</p> <p>Qu: Some of the backlinks of the website are broken making it difficult to land on the information you need</p> <p>A: Thank you. We have been experiencing issues with the website since February 2025 and have been working hard to fix the problems – with limited success. We are pleased to announce that we have decided that it is now time for a new website, which is currently being built and hopefully will be ready to launch in the spring term. This will resolve any existing issues.</p> <p>Qu: When is reading book change day please?</p> <p>A: At the beginning of term, children begin school with differing experiences of phonics teaching and it does take a while for teachers to assess and place children in groups of similar reading ability in EYFS – which is there has been no set date yet. Ms Shorthouse and Mrs Kemp hope to be able to give a set date next week.</p>	
Year 1	No queries or questions received.	
Year 2	No queries or questions received.	
Year 3	<p>Comment: The parents want to say a big thank you to Mr Brittin for being an amazing teacher. The kids have had a great start to year three. The kids say he's big on discipline but very fair with them. He makes the classes fun. The kids have been enthralled by the history lessons and have come home with lots of stories to tell and even furthered their learning on their own.</p> <p>A: Thank you for this feedback. We will pass it on to Mr Brittin.</p>	
Year 4	<p>Qu: What is the snack policy for KS1 vs KS2?</p> <p>A: The school no longer has a specific snack policy for children, however we request that snacks that are bought into school are healthy and proportionate. In the meeting we discussed that it</p>	



	<p>would be beneficial for the school to provide more specific guidance on snacks and so we will look to get a more formal guidance out in the spring term. In the meantime:</p> <p>Recommended snacks include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fruit or vegetables – please note that children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 have access to free fruit and vegetables at breaktime</li><li>• Crackers, rice cakes or breadsticks</li><li>• A plain biscuit</li></ul> <p>Recommended, but <b>with caution</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dried fruit e.g. 3 apricots – although you may wish to consider this in terms of dentistry</li><li>• A cereal snack bar – but be aware that some of these are very high in sugar content</li><li>• Small piece of cheese</li></ul> <p>Chocolate bars, sweets and crisps are not permitted in school.</p> <p>Where a child needs additional food as part of a specific diet, this will be accommodated.</p> <p>For some healthy snack ideas, please go to: <a href="https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/food-facts/healthier-snacks/">https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/food-facts/healthier-snacks/</a></p> <p>Qu: Can sports fixtures be communicated with more notice to support family planning? A: We agree that some of the notice for sports fixing planning is short and we will feed this information back to the team responsible for organising sporting fixtures for the Harpenden &amp; District area. Some friendly matches are organised between schools and we will ask Mrs Bethell to request as much notice as possible.</p> <p>Qu: When do the children start getting changed separately as boys and girls for PE? A: This happens from Year 5 onwards currently. However, if there is a feeling amongst parents that this needs to happen earlier because children are becoming more aware of their bodies and would like some privacy, we will of course change this to happen from Year 4.</p> <p>Qu: Was there a full handover from Year 3 to Year 4 regarding pupils' individual learning needs and can the handover process be clarified for future years?</p>	
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Year 5	<p>Qu: Could an end time be indicated for events during the school day (assemblies, talks etc) even if it's an estimate - this would help working parents to plan to attend.</p> <p>A: Yes, this has been asked before. Apologies if we have missed some.</p> <p>Qu: Is it possible for a pic of the weekly certificates/awards board to be in the newsletter?</p> <p>A: This is a lovely idea, thank you. We will start adding a photo to the newsletter.</p> <p>Qu: Looking ahead to holidays next year. When will next year's Autumn term start date be shared? We have the Hertfordshire date, but not any added-on Training Dates?</p> <p>A: We share autumn term dates with parents and carers as soon as possible. This can sometimes take time, as we set, and book, the staff training agenda. However as a good rule of thumb, we always have 2 INSET days at the beginning of the academic year in September, so if parents add 2 working days to the published Hertfordshire term dates, this is normally when children will return to school.</p> <p>Qu: Please could a suggestion of putting a number of inset/occasional days together next to a half term be made. This could allow families to have a cheaper holidays and give more potential to go further afield.</p> <p>A: The purpose of InSeT days is for the professional development of staff. These days are used for staff training, planning, and administrative tasks to improve teaching standards. We do appreciate the suggestion, but it is important for the development of our staff and the delivery of our training programmes that these InSeT days are spaced throughout the year.</p>	



	<p>Qu: Please could the school update the school lunch menu on the website? A: Thank you for spotting this. We will pass the request on to our website assistant – please do bear with us, however, as we develop our new website, which will hopefully be ready early in the spring term.</p> <p>Qu: Could the list of clubs be published before some external clubs opened up their signups? By waiting until we know what other clubs are available we have missed sign ups. A: Thank you for raising this. We will ask external clubs not to open their sign ups until the clubs list is published, so that all children have the same opportunities.</p> <p>Comment: A big thank you to Mr Comer &amp; Mrs Bethell for taking the children further afield to a sports competition. It was great to recognise a talented group and enter them in to a larger competition. A: Thank you. We are really proud of all Manland athletes!</p>	
Year 6	<p>Comment: Please pass our thanks to Mr Winchester; pupils are highly engaged and respond well to his enthusiasm. A: This is wonderful feedback, thank you. We will pass it on to Mr Winchester.</p>	