

Crowcombe & Stogumber Primary Schools' Parents Forum

9.00am Friday 7 November 2025 - The Beacon Room, Stogumber

Present: 12 parents were present in the meeting and 2 parents joined the meeting online. Mrs Dean our Chair of Governors was present as was Mrs Lewis (Executive Headteacher), Mrs Carter (SENDCO) & Mrs Tisshaw (Admin officer)

1) Transition

Mrs Lewis explained that a lot more transition opportunities were given last summer, especially for new reception starters and from Yr 2 to Yr 3, and asked for parental feedback.

Reception parents felt that there was a lot on offer, probably more than a lot of other schools give. It would be helpful to have an indication of how many sessions would be a minimum to attend if not all could be accessed. Regular days / times could help with diary planning.

Year 3 parents felt it had been beneficial but some children still had anxieties over bus transport, the environment of the Crowcombe building. However, the overall transition had been successful and children had settled better than expected. Booking into Munch Bunch for some for a few sessions helped with gaining familiarity of the school.

Mrs Lewis explained there are now more leadership roles for Yr6 such as school buddies, sports leaders & play leaders to help all children know they have options to be involved at playtimes and lunchtimes to help make new friends. Parent feedback at the forum reported these roles were having a positive impact.

2) Communication

The school uses Class Dojo for information sharing, class pages for detailed specific class related info, and the whole school page for general information. A newsletter is also produced containing information and diary dates.

Parents were asked how useful these things are and what if any improvements / changes they thought would help. It was mentioned that many parents only access these on mobile phones which are not always easy to operate, as opposed to a computer or paper.

Diary dates and reminders are seen to be the most useful and important, but parents also like to know what's been going on in school so they can discuss them with their children.

Paper copies to go home now prove too expensive (for printing) and time-consuming, but a suggestion was to have a copy on a noticeboard at school for reference. Once a month would seem an adequate frequency.

3) Website

The school website is due to be upgraded and parents were asked what they would like to see to improve the content. Upcoming diary dates would be useful to have on the home page as a quick access. Maybe information on what children do at school to help keep parents informed.

4) Sustainability

It is a requirement for all schools to have a Sustainability Lead and to work with the community, pupils, parents and staff to develop a Climate Action Plan. Mr Wedderkopp has agreed to be our Sustainability lead. He is currently in the processes of gathering pupil views from across the school and then will be writing to involve parents, governors and members of the community. The idea being that all voices will be gathered and then a Climate Ambassadors group involving all stakeholders will be set up to work collaboratively to develop our climate action plan and bring it alive. Please look out for correspondence regarding this and do get involved.

5) School Development Priorities

Mrs Lewis shared the overarching school development priorities for the year ahead, which can be found on the school website. She talked through the rationale for these priorities and gave some examples of how the school are implementing change and improvement through them.

6) Feedback / Questions

Mrs Lewis asked if parents would like to raise any issues.

Is the school able to take online payments?

The school has had a new information system installed this year and it is the intention to be able to take online payments for clubs, trips, etc in due course. The system is compromised a little because of the two schools and children being registered on different rolls, so we are trying to design the system to be compatible and work. Hopefully this will take place for January 2026. School lunches will always need to be paid in cash / cheque as they are provided by an external company who are paid directly by the parents.

Mr Wedderkopp / Forest School: Is there any capacity for more days to be included more regularly as the sessions are so useful / productive?

Unfortunately Mr Wedderkopp is only contracted for one day a week.

Mrs Lewis thanked everyone for joining the meeting and will send out information about the Spring Term Parent Forum meeting early in the Spring Term.