



Parents' Forum Impact report 2021-22

Our Parents' Forum was established in July 2015; it acts as a representative body for all parents and carers at St Mary & St Thomas. The Parents' Forum meets three times a year to discuss subjects linked to school priorities; they also act as a consultative body for school.

We asked/ shared	You said	We did
Project-based homework	If project- based homework could be reduced to fortnightly as it was labour-intensive. There were also some recording issues. Was there a way to share photographs of projects etc rather than written evidence.	Homework grids were reassessed and expectations for parents were to complete one mini-project every two weeks. Parents and carers have the option to send electronic evidence of children's homework via email or twitter.
Parents recognising achievements in school and high-quality work completed	Enjoyed attending Parent Insight mornings as they were useful to see expectations in the classroom and the work being completed. Parents requested more opportunities to see high-quality work by their children.	High-quality work is sent out to parents. Termly teacher-parent/carer meetings have been reinstated so parents and carers can look at pupil books and discuss their work with class teachers.
The permanent closure of Barton Close to ensure parents/carers and children are safe near the school entrance.	This continues to be a positive change and parents/carers welcomed it. Parents outlined how busy the road would be during school hours but now with limited vehicles able to access it, the space is safer for families to move about however reminders still need to be in place for some vehicles.	Continue to work with the council's Highways Team to maintain permanent measures that are in place. Regular text messages and reminders on the newsletter are sent out to parents/carers. RSO has been present at times to remind parents that the closure is for the safety of children and their families.
Online reading competitions	Expressed concern around the children only wanting to read books that were online and not their own reading books to try and win the competition	Competitions highlighted the number of minutes read from either online reading or through reading school's reading book. Parents to then log in the reading diary how many minutes they had read for.

Breakfast club times to change and open earlier with a small change in cost.	In agreement that breakfast club should open at 8am rather than 8:15am. Parents felt the slight increase in cost was reasonable.	Breakfast club now starts at 8am. The cost increased by 40p. Parents were informed by a letter and regularly reminded of the times and cost on the weekly newsletter. There has been increased uptake as a result.
After school club sign-up moving to Arbor rather than paper copies.	Explained that it would be a positive move however for working parents they wouldn't be able to sign their child up if the information went live during the day.	Sign up for after school clubs now goes live at 6pm to ensure the majority of parents have the opportunity to add their child to a club. Parents and carers have commented on the benefit of this. There has been increased uptake of clubs and much less admin work as a result.
The use of social media to promote school and the work/activities completed by children.	Enjoyed reading about what the children have done on Twitter and our school website/newsletters but would welcome other platforms such as Facebook as the majority of the school community have access to Facebook. Parents agreed that Facebook and Twitter should mirror and important information should be provided by text message.	Text messages will continue to be sent out and additional names/year groups to be added on when necessary. Facebook page set up by school and to be launched within the community.