Parent & Friends Committee Q&A Summary 2026-27 Term 1

Attendance: Parents and Parent Board representatives from Years 4–9 attended this term's Parent & Friends Committee meeting.

We are grateful to all parents who continue to contribute their time, ideas and feedback, helping us ensure that Si Ri Panya continues to grow as a caring, community-minded international school.

School Menu

Parent feedback: Concerns were raised about the amount of deep-fried and processed food on the school menu.

School response:
Our four-week menu covers 20 school days. Our previous review identified five deep-fried items across this rotation. Most meals are freshly prepared in our school kitchen, with a variety of grilled dishes, curries, pasta, rice and soups. Pupils also have alternative main meals, the Green Corner salad bar, soup and fresh fruit available each day.
Our Term 3 food survey included feedback on the five deep-fried items identified in our menu review. Chicken schnitzel received 89% and 83% positive feedback across its two appearances, while fish and chips received 80%. Potato croquettes received just 43% positive feedback.
From Term 2, we will replace potato croquettes with a trial of chicken hot dogs in buns, served with caramelised onions and a side salad. We will review pupil feedback before deciding whether to keep the new dish.
Our aim is to provide a balanced variety of freshly prepared meals that pupils enjoy eating. View our full four-week school menu.

Food Allergies

Parent feedback: Concern that fish and chicken dishes are served too close together, posing a potential cross-contamination risk.

School response:
Fish and chicken meals are served on separate plates and do not come into direct contact.
Parents are asked to declare food allergies during admissions and at the start-of-year parent meetings. We currently have no recorded pupils with a fish allergy.
If your child has a fish allergy, or any other undeclared food allergy, please inform the school office so that we can update our records and ensure appropriate precautions are in place.

Fruit and Snack Time

Parent feedback: Concerns were raised about pupils handling shared fruit and snacks and occasionally returning items after touching them.

School response:
We have introduced a trial of whole fruit, such as bananas and oranges, so that pupils can take an individual piece without handling shared portions.
However, this has limited the variety of seasonal fruit available, increased food waste and is estimated to increase costs by 10.5%.

We will continue the trial for another month and review the results. If it proves unsuitable, we plan to trial serving prepared fruit with individual forks, allowing pupils to enjoy a wider variety of fruit while maintaining good hygiene.

Primary Lunchtimes

Parent feedback: Concerns that Primary pupils are being pressured to finish everything on their plates.

School response:

Our staff encourage children to eat a balanced meal, try different foods and avoid unnecessary waste. Children are not required to finish everything on their plates.

Pupils can have additional helpings, but if they have eaten only the mashed potato, for example, staff will encourage them to try some of the vegetables and protein on their plate before having more. This helps children develop balanced eating habits without requiring them to finish everything.

Our approach is to encourage healthy eating, not force children to eat. Parents with concerns about their child's individual needs are welcome to speak to their class teacher.

Salad Bar

Parent feedback: By the time Secondary pupils arrive for lunch, some salad bar items, including vegetables and eggs, have run out, and the area can be untidy.

School response:

This issue was raised by pupils through our Secondary Student Council in Term 3 last year. Both Primary and Secondary have Student Councils, with class representatives who raise concerns and suggestions on behalf of their classmates.

In response, the kitchen team was instructed to check, tidy and restock the shared salad bar before Secondary lunchtime.

The issue has not been raised again by pupils this term. We will check that these arrangements are still being followed and that the salad bar remains well stocked and tidy throughout lunch.

Secondary Dining Area

Parent feedback: The Secondary cafeteria feels too small now that it accommodates Years 7–10.

School response:

During the summer holidays, we added two eight-person tables, increasing seating capacity by 16 places. Secondary enrolment has increased by approximately 20 pupils, although Year 10 pupils also enjoy eating lunch in their common room.

Plans are in place to extend the cafeteria's covered area and floor space. This is one of several school improvement projects awaiting scheduling, so a completion date has not yet been confirmed.

School Landscaping

Parent feedback: A suggestion to plant more trees and introduce additional greenery around the school grounds.

School response:

We share this vision and have been developing a landscaping plan with a professional landscaper over the past year. The planting areas have been mapped out, and approximately 14 varieties of trees, shrubs and plants have been selected. Their final arrangement will be determined during planting.
The plants will be placed in raised concrete beds with built-in seating. This will protect them from playground activities while providing additional seating, shade and greenery.
We are also investing in an automated irrigation system, including sprinklers and drip irrigation, to ensure the plants and grass receive consistent watering throughout the year.
The landscaping designs are complete, and the raised planting beds are included in our builders' scheduled works. Our building team is already on site, working through a number of school improvement projects. Once the beds are constructed, we can proceed with the irrigation system and planting. A completion date has not yet been confirmed.

Classroom Temperatures

Parent feedback: Concerns that air-conditioning units are set as low as 19°C, creating a significant difference between indoor and outdoor temperatures, which parents believe may be making children unwell.

School response:
We will check classroom temperatures again this coming week using independent thermometers and make any necessary adjustments. We will also remind teachers of the air-conditioning guidance already included in our Staff Handbook. Parents concerned about a particular classroom are welcome to let us know so we can check that room specifically.
The temperature displayed on an air-conditioning unit is its target setting, not the actual room temperature. The age and efficiency of the unit, classroom size and doors opening throughout the day all affect the temperature achieved. When we previously tested two classrooms, the actual temperatures were approximately 27–28°C, despite lower settings on the units.
Children have different temperature preferences, so our guidance asks teachers to consider the comfort of the whole class, adjust the air conditioning where needed and direct airflow away from pupils. Children who feel colder may also wear a school jumper or sit further from the unit.

Drama Hall Improvements

Parent feedback: Concerns that the Drama Hall air conditioning was insufficient during performances, particularly for pupils on stage.

School response:
Following the Term 3 performances, we installed an additional high-capacity air-conditioning unit during the summer holidays, doubling the Drama Hall's cooling capacity.
This work is now complete, and we will monitor temperatures during the upcoming end-of-Term 1 performances to ensure the hall is comfortable for both performers and audiences.

Secondary Recreational Facilities

Parent feedback: A request for more dedicated recreational and play facilities for Secondary pupils.

School response:
Several improvements have already been designed and budgeted for, including a trim trail between the main Secondary building and the covered basketball court, and a zip line between the Secondary car gate and the main building. The trim trail plans were first shared with parents in a newsletter almost a year ago.

We chose to wait over a year for our established building team rather than appoint unfamiliar contractors. Having worked with them for several years, we trust their workmanship, reliability and approach to safety around children. Although this delayed the projects, we believe it was the right decision.
Our builders returned to site in June and have been working continuously through our planned improvements. Both projects are on their schedule, although completion dates have not yet been confirmed.
Looking further ahead, our planned development beyond the covered basketball court will also include a bouldering wall, providing another recreational activity for Secondary pupils.

Library
Parent feedback: A request for clearly communicated book-changing times so that parents and pupils know when books can be exchanged.

School response:
Primary Library – classroom reading books: Each Primary class has a scheduled weekly library session when pupils can exchange the books they are reading in school.
Primary Library – books borrowed to take home: Parents may visit the Primary Library with their children any school morning between 8.30 and 9.00 am, Monday to Friday, to return or borrow books. Children must be accompanied by a parent, and books are signed in and out using the register in the main office.
Secondary Library: The Secondary Library is open throughout every school day. Students are actively encouraged to borrow books independently, signing them out and back in using the library register. This operates on a trust basis.
These arrangements are already in place. If the committee was referring to a different aspect of book changing, we would welcome further clarification so we can address it.

Thank You
Thank you to the Parent & Friends Committee and all parents who contributed to this term's discussion. Your ideas, questions and involvement help us reflect on what we do well and where we can continue to improve. We value this partnership and look forward to working together to make Si Ri Panya an even better place for our pupils.