



Headteacher response to parent survey:

Firstly, please let me say a huge thank you for taking the time to complete our annual parent survey. We were so pleased with the overwhelmingly positive responses and the wonderful comments you took time to share.

Below, I have prepared responses to some of the suggestions for improvement. As always if you have a specific concern that you are worried about, please make an appointment to meet with your class teacher, Mrs Warner and/or myself.

1. More sporting opportunities, competitions against other schools/Clubs/Trips

We will look into including more opportunities for sport over this coming year. Clubs are somewhat limited by cost but we will look into securing funding for clubs other than sport. We offer 3/4 different sporting after-school clubs every half term which again are costly to the school but minimal or no cost to the parents. The uptake on these aren't at maximum capacity so there are always spaces available in the sports clubs provided for the children each half term. Every class will have had at least one trip this year – they are an amazing educational experience but are also very expensive. In particular the cost of a coach is a lot. Friends have supported the costs by funding coaches but we do have to consider the financial burden to parents of too many trips in a year. I will publish a record of the enrichment we have provided this year separately.

2. High academic expectations

Our curriculum expectations are controlled externally – so the standards we must achieve are monitored by the Department for Education and Ofsted. We try to ensure we balance these high expectations and the knowledge heavy curriculum with opportunities to learn through a range of enriching experiences. We are also aspirational in wanting to help all pupils optimise their potential.

3. Too much homework

Homework is also expected by the DFE – and also helps to prepare for their secondary homework expectations. We have tried to make homework more engaging, accessible and achievable by using online programmes. If your child is struggling, please do speak to their teacher.

4. Food provision – choices/menu issues

You may know that our food is provided by an outside catering company, Chartwells. We have not been happy with the service and agree with the comments regarding this. Catering for schools is very strictly governed by rules regarding the nutritional quality of their offers and there is a tendering process that must be followed. We have now completed this process and from June a new company, Aspens, will take over. Comments about menus/etc will be passed directly to the company and they will be releasing their menu shortly. We are hoping they will arrange a launch session for parents soon too.

5. Communication/Dojo Commenting/Parents' Evenings

Dojo has been very favourably received as enabling a quick, easy and direct communication with parents. It is generally not used for important issues that do need face to face meetings. We carry out face to face meeting twice a year but any other time parents wish to speak to the teacher, please do make a direct appointment with them – it is always the best way to communicate important things! We try to be available daily at the end of school for this. Any problems do let me know. Comments on the main posts will be responded to directly to the person commenting. Diary dates are added ahead of time to give advance notice for parents to organise, details will always be added in time for the actual event. Generally, Dojo is used for communication mainly further up the school as teaching becomes more formal, however, we will aim to try and share more of the exciting learning that we do across all classes going forward. Newsletters have been reduced to half termly and are more a celebration of what learning has taken place and what is coming up. Dojo has replaced the day-to-day information and our paper newsletters were not overall successful.

6. Knowing more about my child's learning

There are a few ways to know more about what each class is learning. Currently curriculum coverage for all subjects and year groups are available on the school website. We will share the knowledge organisers for current topics on Dojo so that you can see this. If you wish to know the book they are looking at in English or the maths topic they are covering, please message the teacher directly and they can share information specific to the current learning. We will ask teachers to share more information about RWI and in particular the successes as they move up groups.

7. Playground Equipment

Children have been given a whole new set of playground equipment in the spring term and during the summer we also have the use of the field and track. We are really lucky with the space we have but some equipment is not so suitable for playtimes – eg hockey or cricket etc as these tend to cause more injuries. We tend to have to replace equipment annually which is a big expense as it seems to go missing so easily. To support with play, we have also trained our year 5s to be play leaders. Miss Rowe will be placing an order for new equipment for September too.

8. Nurture and emotional support for pupils

We are really keen to enable as much support as our budget allows for emotional health and well-being support for our children and have put considerable resources into training staff to allow in this happen in our school. We have allocated sessions for vulnerable children 4 afternoons and 1 morning a week. This level of support will continue as long as we can possibly fund it as external support and funding for services is so dire currently. We have a pupil focus group that discuss pupil well-being and carry out regular pupil conferencing and surveys for looking at ways to support our children. For transition support, we plan in a thorough programme in the summer term to ensure children feel as confident as they can going into their next class. If you have any questions about this please speak to me or our SENDCo, Mrs Laithwaite or your child's class teacher.

Some of the positives!

Support to parents has been impeccable.

What a lovely year it's been Great they are encouraged to write stories young writers competitions etc

Supporting individual child's needs

Christian message

I feel the school is amazing in most aspects and have really supported us as a family through difficult times

Keeping kids safe and learning well

Communication with parents. Always puts the children and families first

The teachers are very supportive when it comes to my child's behaviour and is always good at making me feel comfortable with talking to the teachers regarding my child's needs and support.

Everything. My daughter is absolutely thriving!

The school promotes a caring and stable environment for the children with minimal staff changes. I feel some teachers are more approachable than others. Mrs Bullock is possibly one of the nicest people we have ever met in a school. You are very lucky to have her as part of your teaching team. Mrs Williams is also fantastic and Mrs Fowler.

Outside activities/learning, away from the desk.

Inclusion and fair treatment to all with high effort to include all pupils especially those with extra needs etc lovely regular updates on dojo including photos and videos often fantastic to just see daily activities etc and extra nice when seeing things happening for special events. Ie the full class world book day photo a very special memory captured for all.

The school creates a good and encouraging environment for kids, making them eager to learn and to participate in classes. Thank so much for that!

Class dojo keeps us informed.

In making my child a better person

I am a foster carer and this school has been my first choice for both my children. They are open, welcoming and very inclusive. The senco and head are brilliant .

Strong values and friendly relationships between staff and children.

Education and happiness

I think communication via Dojo is good.

I have been really happy with everything at school, everything is done well

Wrap around provision - staff are always so lovely and helpful

Children are taught well in every subject.

As always, I'd like to finish by saying, please don't wait until our annual survey to express worries, concerns or share suggestions. We are here all year and are happy to listen to you. This is a family school we hope, in every sense, and working together is always the best for the children.