

Parent Survey 2012/13 Summary



Thank you for your thoughtful and considerate responses which have been well received by our staff. We had 17 people make comments on the parent survey last term. By choosing to use this mechanism to share your opinions the school can work constructively in its provision for children while building a secure reputation in Cambridgeshire and Nationally.

"Safe, happy environment for the children"

"It is friendly and I like that all the pupils seem to know each other quite well"

"Lovely small friendly school, everyone knows everyone and older children seem to look after the younger ones"

"Great for children to have a chance to try out new activities at school such as music lessons, choir, trips like O₂ and ballet"

"Good outside teachers, particularly in music"

"Building work, extensions, new roof to outside Class 6 - a school to be proud of"

Parentmail has been well received and some parents have asked if the school is planning to increase the numbers of letters sent home by parentmail.

The take up of parentmail since it's introduction has been steady and we are planning to transfer more of the schools mailings to parentmail in the future. By using parentmail we aim to provide excellent communication while reducing printing costs and helping the environment.

Can there be more current information on the school website?.

We have just launched our new website, which for the first time will be managed from the school office. In the near future we will be adding more information to keep people informed about our school.

While Children are safe and happy, how does the school work with children when they 'push the boundaries'?

A key ingredient to our successful overall outcome and 'Feel good, feel safe' factor is that we allow children opportunities to reflect when mistakes are made and develop empathic awareness. Children who understand about themselves are in a strong position to relate positively to the world around them in a variety of contexts. The behaviour policy we follow in school provides opportunities for low level management and for supporting children through difficult times with clear consequences.

Is there an opportunity for parents to come in and share their specialist knowledge of their work or careers with the children?

We value the contributions of parents and welcome the opportunity to share their experiences with the children. We try to link this to their learning experiences appropriate to their age. Parents that wish to offer this type of support are welcome to contact the school office and make an appointment with the head teacher.

"Great new building facilities"

"Gazebo, School Garden and Lockers for class 6"

"We like the lockers and outdoor learning area"

"Every child is praised and made to feel included and special through 'Star of the Week and 'Friend of the week"

"I think the friend of the week system is excellent. It boosts self-esteem and encourages children to think kindly of each other"

"The teaching staff we have experienced have had a positive impact on our children's' lives and have helped them to settle very well and learn to the best of their ability"

"The friendly caring attitude staff have towards the children"

Thank you for your comments. The governors and I would like to assure parents of our schools commitment to deliver high standards. We hope you will take the time to complete our tick box survey which will be made available later in the term.

How do teachers meet the needs of more and less able children in their class?

The needs of all children including more and less able, are addressed primarily on an individual basis. Our successful track record over the years has resulted in better than expected progress in identifiable groups. This year the school's responses to Ofsted comments have enhanced our provisions further.

Can I help with my child's learning at home?

We welcome the involvement of parents in supporting learning at school. We are very pleased that many parents help children with their homework, which in itself provides opportunities for parents to develop or extend their children's work - though encouraging children's independent working is also of importance. Parents may also want to use our newsletter to provide relevant support associated with literacy and numeracy, where our key areas of learning for that week are bullet pointed. Our termly letter provides an overview of learning and the details can be found in the national curriculum. If parents wish they are able to view these areas of learning at

www.education.gov.uk/schools/teachingandlearning/curriculum/primary

Informing parents of Long Term Staff Absence

Once the school is aware that a member of staff is unlikely to be working in the longer term, we aim to inform parents. Uncertainties around this issue, affected by the nature of illness and the desire of staff to reflect daily on their capability to return, can sometimes result in an unplanned extended absence. In managing situations of this nature we endeavour to inform parents if long term absence is likely to occur.

If the school had another classroom could it have a seventh class?

The school is currently waiting to find out its new budget from County which is likely to be less next year. We use the budget that is set by Cambridgeshire County Council for our school to maximise learning opportunities for children: adult to pupil ratios being a key factor in this process. As a small school our mixed year group structure fits nicely with a village ethos and provides many opportunities for personal and social development. Our class structure is influenced by funding from Cambridgeshire County Council who are one of the lowest funded (money per pupil) counties in the country. Thank you to all those who sent a letter to the House of Commons requesting a change to this!

Graeme McLeod, Headteacher