



Chestnut Lane School

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**Headteacher:** Mrs Gemma Rehal  
BA (Hons) Primary Ed, PGCE SENCo

18 July 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians

### **Chestnut Lane School Governors' Parent Survey – 2023**

In June the governing body of Chestnut Lane School conducted a parent survey to gather the views and opinions of parents and guardians. Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete it. 124 responses were received, which represents a response rate of 58.8%. The responses have provided us with lots of useful information. We are delighted to see so many positive results and read the complimentary feedback, however we also look closely at the criticisms too, even though these came from a small minority of parents.

We have taken time to review these responses carefully and share our findings with Mrs Rehal and the school leadership team. Below is a summary of the findings and the actions we are taking as a school to further improve the quality of education and care for your children. Please note the information below relates to trends in the feedback, it is not possible to respond to all of the individual feedback received.

#### **The responses to question 17 provided us with much to celebrate.**

What is the best thing about Chestnut Lane School?

- The staff are supportive, caring, kind and friendly and there is good leadership.
- There is a supportive environment which is welcoming and nurturing.
- There are a wide range of activities within class as well as extra-curricular.
- The physical environment with its outdoor space, gardens and equipment.
- There is a strong sense of community.
- The children are happy, confident and excited to be at school.
- There is an inclusive atmosphere where different faiths and cultures are celebrated and are integrated into learning.

#### **These responses to question 18 provided us with food for thought.**

What single idea would improve the education of pupils at Chestnut Lane school?

1. More communication about learning, development, progress, learning at home including homework.
2. Reading – more 1:1 reading with the teacher, support for parents with phonics, more challenging reading.
3. Staff/pupil ratio, a balance of experienced and inexperienced staff.
4. More outings and outdoor learning
5. A breakfast club.

In response to the five points above...

1. Please ensure you always read the information provided by your child's teacher, including within communication books/learning logs and pupil progress update sheets. Also, the curriculum page on the website has many tools and resources that the teachers have provided to help you support your child. However, if you still need further information regarding any of the learning or tasks set for your child then please do make an appointment to meet with your teacher.
2. As mentioned above, there are many useful resources on the website to help with the teaching of reading and phonics including the video guides. The curriculum remains under continuous review, and the school will be looking closely at how they provide feedback on reading next year.

3. Nationally there is a serious shortage of teachers at all levels of experience. We are fortunate that Chestnut Lane School has a good track record for retaining experienced teachers who provide support for those who are less experienced. The school invests strongly in professional development for all. Our staff/pupil ratios are monitored closely, and are very often above average.
4. Next year there will be a strengthened whole school approach to learning outdoors supported by certification for all teachers, and a dedicated facilitator in the teaching team – more information to follow.
5. Earlier in the year we made good progress in entering discussions with a provider of before school childcare. We feel very frustrated that it is the Local Authority who are now delaying the process.

**Please see below a table showing the responses to questions 1 – 16.**

	<b>Strongly agree/agree</b>	<b>Disagree/Strongly disagree</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
1. My child is happy at Chestnut Lane	98.4%	1.6%	
2. My child feels safe and secure at Chestnut Lane, and there are adults who can help if they have a problem	97.6%	1.6%	0.8%
3. The school knows my child and understands and supports their individual needs	96%	3.2%	0.8%
4. The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year and I am able to support their learning	96.8%	1.6%	1.6%
5. Chestnut Lane has high expectations of behaviour	92%	5.6%	2.4%
6. The school lets me know how my child is progressing	94.4%	1.6%	4%
7. Chestnut Lane has high expectations of learning	94.4%	4%	1.6%
8. The school promotes positive mental health and wellbeing for everyone	93.5	1.6%	4.8%
9. Everyone is welcomed and included in the school community and difference is celebrated	96%	1.6%	2.4%
10. The school reflects and promotes it's values of Respect, Kindness, Resilience, Independence and Responsibility	94.3%	0.8%	4.8%
11. My child has been bullied and the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively	20.9%	2.4%	76.6% of parents had no experience of bullying or don't know
12. When I have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly	56.5%	6.5%	37.1% have no experience of this, or don't know
13. My child has the opportunity to take part in extra-curricular experiences at this school, such as workshops, outdoor learning and visits	93.5%	1.6%	4.8%
14. The school supports my child's wider personal development, in areas such as learning behaviours and developing to be a responsible, respectful and active citizen	91.9%	1.6%	6.5%
15. I understand the Governing Board's role in overseeing the strategic management of the school	78.2%	13.7%	8.1%
16. I would recommend Chestnut Lane to another parent/carers	94.4%	2.4%	3.2%

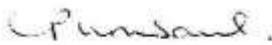
**Finally...**

One other area of feedback that has led to an action point for next year is that over 20% of parents who responded to the survey do not understand the Governing Board's role in overseeing the strategic management of the school. As a board of governors, we are very keen to change this and we will be talking in our meetings next year about ways in which we can share more information with the parents about how we work and how we support the school. We are pleased that we now have a section in the school newsletters and hope that we will be able to use the website to communicate even more information.

Once again, many thanks for providing us with such useful information.

Wishing you all a happy and enjoyable summer break.

Yours faithfully



**Christine Plimsaul**  
Chair of Governors

*Our School Values: Respect, Kindness, Resilience, Independence & Responsibility*

