



Chestnut Lane School

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July 2016

Dear Parents,

2016 Parental Questionnaire

Thanks to all parents and carers who took the time to complete the recent survey expressing your views about Chestnut Lane School. This year we had 85 responses (2015 75) meaning about half of you have shared your feelings about the School.

It is gratifying that so many of you had positive things to say - 99% of children like the School, 94% of you think their child is being taught well, 97% think their child is well looked after and 99% would recommend the school to others. 85% think we get the home work about right.

There are a few areas where you have expressed requests, comments and concerns and it is right to address these here.

1. Newly Qualified Teachers. Parents are no doubt aware that there is a national shortage of teachers and whilst it would be great to have fully experienced staff it is not always possible. Happily, we are fully staffed for September as some schools are still trying to recruit. We will endeavour to boost the number of teaching staff over the next few months in the hope that we will build a buffer for the future. The year we were awarded Outstanding by Ofsted we had two NQTs on the staff.
2. Pupil Assessment. We have all found the new assessment processes introduced by the government this year very challenging. Parents may have seen some of the feedback presented nationally about how disappointing end of year results have been particularly at Key Stage 2. As yet there is no national data for KS1. However we hope that next year, we will be able to return to our 'pupil progress sheets' for consultation evenings that show where individual children are against the national expectation as we now have an idea of what 'National Expectation' looks like. Staff are also planning to revisit our reporting systems to see if we are able to improve on our Annual Report to parents or if we can provide more information throughout the year.
3. Dealing with bullying. We are very concerned to think that a few parents do not feel we deal with bullying effectively. Staff regularly work with the children to teach them strategies to report incidents of bullying and encourage them to 'Tell the teacher' and keep telling until someone listens to you. Children might tell one teacher on the playground but they could also tell the other adults who are on duty, they should always tell their class teacher and can pop in and chat to Mrs Plimsaul or any other adult anywhere in school. We have a zero tolerance approach to bullying but it is essential that children report incidences immediately. Waiting until they get home makes it very hard for us to investigate and we cannot deal with occurrences outside the school.

4. More sports. We have good provision for sports. The children have Playball and dance sessions each week. Both of these provide high quality activities which develop specific skills as outlined in the national curriculum. We are targeting gym skills next year and so the timetable will cover all three aspects of PE.
5. Extracurricular activities. We have been lucky this year to be able to offer such a wide range of visits and visitors. This is due to the generosity of parents who contribute to the school fund. We plan to offer more such activities across all three terms next year.
6. More music and singing. Mr Turnham teaches music once a week. Class teachers also sing with the children and have music sessions each week and we will be reintroducing singing assembly next year.
7. Wrap around care. We appreciate the difficulties for working parents and this is something we have investigated before. However, the additional costs to the school (wages, insurance, cleaning, etc.) for the number of families who require it make it difficult to provide. However we are always open minded and interested in exploring different avenues.

We have provided an overview here but the responses to all the questions are shown in the attached tables. If you have any follow-up questions to the survey, we will be happy to oblige.

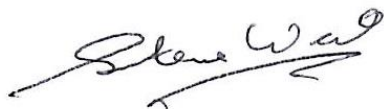
If any parent (or grandparent) is interested in supporting the work of the school there are several ways of doing this. We welcome regular volunteer helpers in the classroom but please sign up for a DBS first. Please speak to your class teacher initially.

The Governing Body is a group of volunteers who oversee the running of the school. Please drop a note into the office if you are interested in finding out more about the work of this important group of people as we are always on the lookout for new governors, whether they are a parent at the school or not.

Finally, as we approach the summer holidays, we wish you and your children the happiest of breaks. For those not returning in September, we wish the leavers every success in their new schools.

Kind regards.

Yours faithfully,



Steve West
Chair of the Governing Body

