



Chestnut Lane School

Chestnut Lane School

105 Chestnut Lane

Amersham HP6 6EF

Telephone: 01494 727415

Email: office@chestnutlane.bucks.sch.uk

Website: <http://chestnutlane.bucks.sch.uk>

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

15 July 2019

Dear Parents,

2019 Parental Survey

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 again had a fair response and we appreciate you all sharing your feelings about the School.

It is gratifying that so many of you had positive things to say:

98% of children are happy at the School.

93% of you think their child is being taught well.

93% think their child is well looked after and 98% feel safe.

98% would recommend the School to others.

One parent said *"I am absolutely happy with the care and support given to my children."* And another parent noted *"It provides a safe, fun, happy and nurturing environment for optimal learning."*

There are a few areas where parents' responses showed some concerns and it is right to address these here.

1. Pupil Progress / Assessment. There is a little concern that achievement levels are not as good as you would like. I can tell you that the School follows the national curriculum and our figures show the children are well above the national average. Thorough moderation of teacher assessments take place both internally and externally, for example this year our Year 2 teacher assessment judgements were moderated by representatives from the local authority. Regular pupil progress meetings take place between year group teachers and senior leaders to analyse the progress of individual pupils, and interventions are planned accordingly. The School also continues to encourage you to raise particular concerns regarding progress with the class teacher, or Mrs Rehal.
2. Keeping Parents Informed. The School provides a great deal of information in a variety of ways to keep parents well informed. The classes hold termly meetings for parents to highlight the topics being taught each term. This information is also emailed to parents and published on the School's website. The School also runs workshops and information evenings for parents including last November an "E-safety" evening for parents. However, it was disappointing that only a small proportion of parents attended to what we felt was an important part of our children's safeguarding.

The children are involved in lots of activities and we are aware that parents aren't always available to join in. Mrs Rehal's half-termly redesigned newsletter shares with you more of what the children are doing in School and there is a lot of information on the School's website, including reference documents for parents to support learning at home.

The School uses Parentmail to communicate to parents regularly regarding trips, events and CLESA activities. All parents can receive these communications, so if there are any queries please liaise with the School office.

Please be aware, however, that the School cannot share parents' or children's personal information due to data protection legislation. Class reps therefore play an important role in facilitating communication between parents such as organising social events. This forum is for

social communication only and is not monitored by the School. All official School communications are sent from the School office. To avoid confusion, any queries regarding School matters should be referred directly to the office or teaching staff.

3. Pupil Behaviour. We are really pleased that the vast majority made positive comments on the children's behaviour. However, please do talk to the class teacher or Mrs Rehal if you have any concerns. The wellbeing of the children, and our staff, is of paramount importance to us and the creation of the new School rules reflect this. Charters are created with each class during the Autumn term, and are referred to throughout the year to celebrate and praise kindness and respect for others.

We would also like to reassure parents about the ratios for supervision of pupils in Early Years. In line with the Framework for children aged three and over, there is a qualified teacher overseeing the nursery, as well as a learning support assistant with the relevant level three qualification ensuring we have a ratio of at least one member of staff to 13 children.

4. Reading. Assessment of the children's reading is carried out regularly, both informally by the class teacher, and formally using a benchmarking tool against national book banding levels. Teachers listen to pupils read weekly, sometimes within a specific reading session, and other times during lesson time, such as Phonics, and feedback is given to parents via the communication books/learning logs. The reading books that the children take home are subject to a lot of 'wear and tear' and the School is currently in the process of purchasing some new books.
5. 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 (staffing, insurance, cleaning, etc.) for the number of families who require it make it unsustainable and unaffordable on the School's tight budget.

We have provided an overview here but the responses to all the questions are shown in the attached table. If you have any follow-up questions to the survey, please contact me via the School office. Alternatively, please contact Mrs Rehal.

If any parent (or grandparent) is interested in supporting the work of the School there are several ways of doing this. Regular volunteer helpers are very welcome so please talk to Suzanna Owen in the office regarding obtaining a DBS certificate. The School often includes requests for parents to share their experiences with the children during topic or themed events, such as Science Week, and so also look out for this on our letters.

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 who don't have to be parents or have had any previous contact with the School.

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

Yours faithfully,



Steve West
Chair of the Governing Body



Parental Survey 2019 – Responses

32% of parents responded

Survey Statements	Agree	Disagree	Insufficient experience
Care and Support			
My child is / children are happy at the school.	98%	1%	1%
My child feels / children feel safe at the school.	98%	0%	2%
The school ensures my child is / children are well looked after.	93%	3%	4%
The children are encouraged to behave well and treat others with respect.	95%	1%	4%
Progress			
My child is / children are taught well at the school.	93%	2%	5%
My child makes / children make good progress at the school.	89%	6%	5%
The school knows my child / children well and meets their particular needs.	88%	4%	8%
Communication			
The school responds well to any concerns I raise.	73%	6%	21%
I receive valuable information from the school about my child's / children's progress (e.g. parents' evenings, communication books).	89%	8%	3%
General			
The school is well led and managed.	94%	1%	5%
Chestnut Lane is an inclusive school that promotes equality and celebrates diversity.	89%	1%	10%
The school deals with any cases of bullying effectively.	33%	4%	63%
I have sufficient opportunity to get involved in my child / children's education and contribute to the school.	86%	2%	12%
I would recommend this school to another parent.	98%	2%	