



Chestnut Lane School
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BA (Hons) Primary Ed, PGCE SENCo

14 June 2024

Dear Parents & Guardians

Chestnut Lane School Governors' Parent Survey – 2024

In March 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. The responses have been very interesting and 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 where these have come from a small minority of parents.

As a governing body, 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 action 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 feedback from multiple parents, it is not possible in this format to respond to feedback from just one or two people.

The responses to question 17 provided us with much to celebrate. The most frequent comments are shared below.

What is the best thing about Chestnut Lane School?

- The staff are supportive, understanding of needs, dedicated, enthusiastic, kind, nurturing, friendly and helpful.
- There is a supportive environment which is safe, welcoming and nurturing with a focus on emotional wellbeing.
- There is a strong sense of community/family.
- There are a wide range of activities within class as well as extra-curricular.
- The physical environment with its outdoor space, gardens and equipment.
- The quality of education with high standards, a creative curriculum which is well rounded.
- The children are happy and love/enjoy school.
- There is an inclusive atmosphere supporting children from different backgrounds and abilities. Actively promoting diversity and understanding.

It is interesting to note that all of the above were also highlighted as strengths last year, therefore we are delighted to see that these key themes continue to be viewed as strengths of the school. We would like to acknowledge here the continued hard work of all staff who set these areas as a priority.

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. Communication - more communication about children's progress with learning and development and how to better support learning at home.
2. Activities - More trips, outdoor learning and additional clubs.
3. Reading – more 1:1 reading with the teacher, more challenging reading and greater opportunities for reading at home.
4. Staffing - staff/pupil ratios, better continuity and stability, and improved communication between teachers.
5. High attaining children – greater challenge for and stretching of more able children.

In response to the five points above...

1. Please ensure you always read the information provided by your child's teacher, including via communication books/learning logs, and pupil progress update sheets. Also, the curriculum page on the website has many resources and video guides that the teachers have specifically created for pupils at our school to help you support your child. The introduction of Tapestry in Key Stage 1 this academic year has provided yet another route for parents to access information about their child/ren's learning in the classroom. 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 their teacher.
2. Each year there is a plan of trips and additional activities to enhance the curriculum. The school continues to invite visitors, performers and creative groups to work with the children on site and this way are able to extend the number of children who can access this kind of experience as most workshops and assemblies will cater for all age groups. It is worth noting here that the cost of trips away from the school site is increasing significantly, and we are mindful of this additional cost on families.
Outdoor learning has been a focus this year with the introduction of 'Muddy Puddles'. Training has been delivered, policies and protocols are being developed and resourcing to create an 'outdoor classroom' has begun. The school is seeking support with this from the community through volunteer sessions, so if you are particularly interested in this area, please contact the school office. This scheme is already being extended out to all year groups and will become a part of the whole school curriculum.
3. Reading is a key area for all schools at the moment. The government have changed the way reading is taught in recent years and the governors are kept informed of the work that staff are involved with in this area. The school website details how the school strives to achieve its aim of creating confident, keen and capable readers, explaining that reading should be completed **by, with and to** children. The National Curriculum states children should be taught to: *'read aloud accurately books that are consistent with their developing phonic knowledge and that do not require them to use other strategies to work out words.'* The school has ensured that 'decodable' books are carefully structured in cumulative steps, so that children feel successful as readers from the very beginning. We are aware that the school has invested in new reading books across all phonic phases. We are also aware that the school continues to review its purchases of books for all classes but there is a shortfall in availability from publishers of reading books to match the phonics programme. We will continue to monitor and increase this investment in the future, according to availability.
4. Many of you will be aware through recent media reports that there is a national shortage of qualified teachers and classroom staff, and a very real issue with teacher retention due to increasing workloads and greater pressures and demands. The Governing Body are pleased to note that teaching vacancies for 2024/ 25 have been filled and that new staff will be invited to work in or visit school before the end of the school year. New staff will therefore be able to familiarise themselves with the children and school routines and will have had opportunities to communicate with established staff.
5. At Chestnut Lane the staff know the children and their abilities very well. A wide range of tasks are planned to meet the needs of all children and the senior leaders in the school monitor progress at all levels. Further information on how the school effectively teaches high attaining pupils is outlined on page 3 of the Teaching, Learning and Curriculum policy
"The majority of provision for high attaining pupils will be organised and provided by the class teacher as part of their normal differentiation of work to respond to their pupils' diverse needs. Our flexible groupings and smaller group intensive teaching sessions ensure further opportunities for high attaining pupils to be stretched and challenged in different ways.
Extension activities, within lessons, will enable children to:
 - Focus on higher order skills
 - Access additional resources to extend and challenge thinking
 - Extend the breadth of study within the subject
 - Utilise the full range of available technologies."

The table below is a summary of the results with strongly agree/ agree and strongly disagree / disagree combined.

	Strongly agree/agree	Strongly disagree/disagree	Don't know
1. My child is happy at Chestnut Lane	94.6%	3.8%	1.5%
2. My child feels safe and secure at Chestnut Lane, and there are adults who can help if they have a problem	94.6%	3.8%	1.5%
3. The school knows my child and understands and supports their individual needs	83.1%	14.6%	2.3%
4. The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year and I am able to support their learning	92.3%	6.9%	0.8%
5. Chestnut Lane has high expectations of behaviour	90.8%	9.2%	0.0%
6. The school lets me know how my child is progressing	88.5%	7.7%	3.8%
7. Chestnut Lane has high expectations of learning	84.6%	12.3%	3.1%
8. The school promotes positive mental health and wellbeing for everyone	87.7%	6.9%	5.4%
9. Everyone is welcomed and included in the school community and difference is celebrated	91.5%	3.8%	4.6%
10. The school reflects and promotes it's values of Respect, Kindness, Resilience, Independence and Responsibility	86.9%	9.2%	3.8%
11. My child has been bullied and the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively	21.5% (80% of those who had experienced bullying)	5.4% (20 % of those who had experienced bullying)	73.1% 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	47.7% (77% of those who had raised concerns)	14.6% (23% of those who had raised concerns)	37.7% 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	88.5%	6.2%	5.4%
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	89.2%	5.4%	5.4%
15. I understand the Governing Board's role in overseeing the strategic management of the school	66.2%	20.0%	13.8%
16. I would recommend Chestnut Lane to another parent/carer	83.1%	10.0%	6.9%

Finally...

An action point that came out of the 2023 survey was about the governing boards' role in overseeing the strategic management of the school. The responses to the survey this year shows there is more work to do here. Through the course of the year governors attended different school meetings and functions in an attempt to share information about our work, we also established a section on the newsletters to give brief updates on any actions we had taken. In the coming year we are going to focus our attention on using the school website to highlight our work. At our meeting last term, we spoke of creating impact statements which will hopefully provide parents with more information.

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

Yours faithfully,



Mrs Christine Plimsaul
Chair of Governors

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

