



Whitley Chapel Church of England First School
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Headteacher: Miss Jenny Morgan

Dear Parents

Wednesday 1st February 2017

Parent's Questionnaire

Thank you for sending back the Parent's questionnaire – it is always very useful to get feedback, and the governors and I really appreciate the time you took to make your comments.

The responses have been overwhelmingly positive, with the majority of parents answering Strongly Agree or Agree to the questions. One of the governors is collating all the results and they will be published on the website when they are ready. It has been encouraging to receive some really approving comments – these have been related to the nurturing ethos of the school, the sociable, enjoyable and interactive learning activities that take place, the caring Christian ethos, the good teaching, the community involvement and the improvements to the building, such as the new windows, newly decorated classrooms and the Outside Learning area. Forest School was given a particularly favourable mention; we are really grateful to Mrs Dickens for her work in introducing this, and Mrs Hilton is in the process of planning a series of activities for Year 1 and 2, and Years 3 and 4 to work on next term to carry on the Forest School ethos throughout the whole school. Several parents were very appreciative of the Breakfast and After School clubs, and noted the variety of activities on offer. They were also very pleased with the PE provision this year, and we are really glad that Mr Williams' fantastic work with the children has been recognised.

There were one or two recurring areas for concern, which I will attempt to address here.

- The gate on to the main road needs to be repaired so that it closes properly. I have asked for quotes to get all the fencing surrounding the school looked at and catches strengthened and repaired where necessary. We will get these seen to as soon as possible.
- Several parents asked why they were not informed about the case of measles in school. We did phone the School nurse as soon as we found out about it, and her advice was not to inform parents in general, but just to let any parent who phoned up to say their child was ill know that measles had been around, and let them know what symptoms to be aware of. The nurse said that it was very rare for children to catch measles nowadays as most of them have been inoculated, so there was no major cause for concern.
- One parent said that her child had mentioned several different helper's names, and she would like to know who all of them were. We are really lucky this year to have Mrs Shah, who was volunteering in Nursery last year, to work as a lunchtime assistant on a Monday.

- Mrs Shah also volunteers in Nursery on a Monday and Thursday morning. We also have two trainee Teaching Assistants – Miss Marshall, who works in KS1 on a Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday morning, and with all the children in ICT on a Friday afternoon; and Mrs Lovett, who works in Class 2 on a Wednesday. Professor Lee is a retired lecturer in Computer studies who volunteers in our ICT lessons on a Friday afternoon, Mrs Vardy is a parent volunteer who helps in Class 2 on a Thursday morning, and Miss Hunter volunteers in Early Years on a Monday and Tuesday afternoon. We have two ladies who come in regularly to hear readers in Year 1 and 2– Mrs Howey on a Monday morning, and Mrs Gibson on a Wednesday morning. At the moment we are running a daily reading group for some pupils in Years 1 and 2 – there are 4 parents who help with that, and one lady from the church – Mrs Parker. We also occasionally have help in Nursery from Mrs Williams, from Mrs Marlee in PSHE lessons, and help in RE lessons from Mrs Mould and Mrs Hull from the church. We are so grateful to everyone who gives their time – it really ensures that the children get the most from their learning, and enables us to plan more exciting and fun activities, as well as helping to contribute to the strong community feel of the school.
- A couple of parents commented on administration hiccups, such as the school photographs, and communication in general. This is an area that we are always trying to improve on, but it can be difficult to be consistent sometimes when county and government deadlines demand more and more of our time. If you need to know something urgently, the best thing to do is to ring school, or look at the website. We publish all the school letters on the front page of the website, and there is also a calendar there with all the dates on. The easiest way to access it is to Google ‘Whitley Chapel C of E First School’. It is also a good window for working parents to see what their children have been doing in school, as we always try to publish pictures of special events or activities. Mrs Thompson works in the office on a Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, so can answer your calls then. If you have an urgent message on a Wednesday or Friday, I am in the office in the afternoons, or you can leave a message on the answerphone, or with the teacher on duty in the morning. Please can you always make sure that your child has a book bag in school so that we can put letters in there, and can you please make sure you check it regularly. Good communication is only really possible when everyone tries to make it work, so if there is something that is worrying you, do please make sure you are heard, or try to find information out by contacting us directly if you think you might have missed something – we are always willing to listen.
- Finally, one or two parents said they found it difficult to get reading books finished in time to get them changed on a certain day. We do understand that you can’t always finish books within a short time period, particularly as the children get older and have longer books. However, even a small amount of reading at home every day is useful, and if you can make sure the books are always in school during the day, even if they are not finished, it means that one of our volunteers or a teaching assistant or teacher can finish the book with your child and change it for a new one.

I hope that this has covered everything; please do not hesitate to ask if you have any further concerns. Thank you again for your interest, participation and support. We are very grateful for all that you do to try and help us make our school the best it can possibly be.

Yours sincerely

Miss Jenny Morgan