

Dear Parents,

Every two years, the Governors carry out a questionnaire with the children to find out what they think about certain aspects of school life and to make sure that they have a voice. Where possible, we try to act on their suggestions to reinforce this.

Recently, Nikki Bareham (Chair of Governors) and Clare Handford (Chair of the School Improvement Committee) did a questionnaire around the theme of emotional resilience and collective worship and we wanted to let you know some of the outcomes.

They talked to groups of children from each year group, as well as to the whole School Council.

These are the questions that were asked and some of the answers. The language used was changed, depending on the age of the children:

**1. What do you enjoy most about school?**

Poetry, writing stories, maths, the welcoming entrance to the school, the new reading scheme, the different range of games on offer, break times.

**2. Do you ever feel worried or anxious in school? Why? What do you do about it?**

If they find it hard to do something, they try to work it out and they generally find the teachers are very supportive. They can feel worried around test time, but again the school is supportive. It can worry them if they don't like the school lunch that day or don't know which lunch they are due to have. Some are worried that they are not getting enough sleep; they can be too tired, especially in the mornings.

**3. If you saw or heard something that you knew was wrong in school what would you do?**

They would explain to them that it's not a good thing to do but then tell the teacher. They would try to stay out of it themselves, but maybe tell someone that they will listen to. They should always tell someone at the time and not wait until later. Mainly tell an adult, a teacher or dinner lady.

**4. Do you feel motivated (keen) to do well at school? What makes you feel motivated?**

They feel like they want to do their best and are supported well by the teachers. When they are excited about things or the task, it motivates them more. If it's too noisy, they find that difficult and distracting. If they have tests coming up, it can make them feel more motivated to do well. Some children expressed concern that they are not getting enough sleep and this affects their motivation and concentration at school.

**5. Do you feel you are a good learner? Why do you think this?**

Most felt that they were good learners. Some wanted to have neater writing to help them learn better. If it's quiet in the classroom without distractions, then they learn better.

**6. What do you think helps you to learn in school? Are there things that make it difficult for you to learn?**

The practical equipment such as tens rods, white boards, video clips and textbooks help them learn. Many prefer to work on their own, doing their own research, rather than in large groups or partners, as they concentrate more. When it is quieter they learn more, so they need to learn to listen, be quiet in class and to save their noise until break times.

**7. Do you know what the Christian Values are that we teach in school? What are they?**

Most of the children from all year groups knew the eight Christian values that have been taught in school. The older children had a deeper grasp of what each one of them meant than the younger children.

**8. In what ways do you think these Christian Values make a difference to your life in school?**

They do make a difference but it is difficult to say exactly how. There is a respect at school for people with different views and an understanding that everyone is different. There is also a feeling of justice, with everyone treated the same.

**9. What do you think is the best thing about Collective Worship in school? What would you like to do more of?**

The popular activities are singing, prayers, interactive assemblies with Rev Jo, acting out stories and hearing about what other classes in the school have been doing. They would like KS1 children to have the opportunity to say the prayers. They would like to do more plays and acting of stories. At the Celebration Assemblies, they like showing things they have done in and out of school and they find the more they have to stand up in front of people, the easier it becomes.

**10. Is there anything else you would like to see done differently or more of at school?**

More artwork, especially for those who can't do art club. Planting things in school time, as some can't do gardening club. Get a working group of children together to do more in the Conservation area. The Year 1's would like bigger chairs, the same as the Year 2 ones. The girls would like to get more involved with football & maybe have their own patch on the field for break times & possibly set up a girls' team. Look at doing more activities where they have to stand up in front of people such as plays & debating. Some wanted to get more purple book homework in KS2.

### **PRACTICAL ACTION POINTS**

Here is a list of action points that were raised through all the questions:

- 1 Let KS1 children have the opportunity to say the prayers at assemblies.
- 2 Get bigger chairs for Year 1 children.
- 3 Possibly get bigger bicycles for Year 1 & 2 children for their break times.
- 4 Let the children use the Thumper playground more during break times.
- 5 Mend the benches in the conservation area.
- 6 Set up an area where girls can play football & look at setting up a girls' team.
- 7 Set up a Conservation working party to look at improving the area.
- 8 Look at introducing more activities where children have to stand in front of people such as plays & debating.

### **GENERAL POINTS THAT CAME UP THROUGHOUT THE YEAR GROUPS**

Some children felt that they were not getting enough sleep & this was affecting their concentration, especially in the mornings. There was a general feeling that a quiet classroom helped them to learn more and that many of them preferred to work on their own as they took more in. Generally, they felt very supported by teachers and adults and they felt they were listened to if they talked to them about anything. They were extremely positive about the school, the Head Teacher and staff. There were no major areas that they felt needed improving.

We hope that we will be able to act on many of the action points as soon as possible, so that the children can see for themselves that they are being listened to and have a real say on how the school is run.

Lastly, we would like to thank all the children who took part and who were very articulate about various aspects of school life from Reception to Year 6.

If, as parents or carers, you would like to contribute to or comment upon any of the above, please contact Nikki Bareham on [governors@salwayash.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:governors@salwayash.dorset.sch.uk).

Best wishes,