



Kea Community Primary School

5 June 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for returning parent questionnaires recently. We had a smaller number of returns this year than last year, only 20. I have shared the comments with staff and with the governing body.

Specific comments about the strengths of the school included: the strong teaching ethos, the fact each child is valued as an individual, the high quality of teachers and teaching assistants, the fantastic outdoor environment, the variety of educational experiences on offer to pupils, great links with the pre-school/wrap around care, themed learning opportunities, the relaxed and friendly atmosphere and approachable, supportive staff. Several questionnaires also pointed out that Kea school has a family feel about it.

A number of areas for development were suggested, several of which came up several times.

Pupil Progress

In particular, a number of parents mentioned the fact that they did not feel they were provided with enough information about their child/ren's progress. Various suggestions were offered such as more frequent parent/teacher meetings and more regular (even monthly) reports published on each child. Preparation for a parent/teacher meeting can take several hours (in addition to the time dedicated to the meetings and, in some cases time afterwards to write up meeting notes) and most teachers allow an hour per child for the summer written report. Following discussions with staff and governors, for the next academic year, rather than offering a higher number of meetings/reports, we will change the timings of the autumn term meetings. An open morning or afternoon will take place during the first half of the term – giving the opportunity for your child to share their work/books with you. A more formal parent/teacher will take place towards the end of November; by this time teachers will have a clear understanding of your child's strengths, progress throughout the term and key areas for them to develop. A similar pattern will follow in the spring and summers terms – open morning or afternoon towards the end of January and May, formal parent/teacher meetings in March and an end of year report in July. Hopefully that this will ensure that parents are kept more up to date on their child/ren's progress throughout the year.

Communication

Some parents mentioned that on some occasions they only find out things (such as marble jar treats) through other parents or through Social Media. I have spoken to staff about this, and have agreed that all communication needs to come via the school office. This should mean that information can be posted onto the website or sent home (possibly via e-mail).

The website received a number of mentions. Office staff work hard to ensure that all information, which is issued through the office (letters, consent slips, newsletters, details of the curriculum etc.), is also published on the website; I urge parents to make use of this facility. A review will take place of this in the coming weeks and months to ensure that everything is as accessible and current as possible.

Clubs

Several parents mentioned clubs – some full of praise for the number and quality of clubs on offer, and others suggesting other clubs. I don't, however, feel there is scope at the moment to extend the number of clubs we offer. I need to be mindful of the time required for teachers' marking,



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planning and preparation as well as attending regular staff meetings. However, if anyone is willing to set up, run or help to run an after school or lunchtime club I'd be delighted to hear from you. Please come and talk to me.

Homework

While there were fewer mentions of homework than in the past; some parents would prefer more homework for their children whereas others would prefer less. We will carry out a review of homework before the end of the summer term to ensure that there is greater consistency and progression between classes.

School meals

A small number of parents mentioned the health balance of school lunches and the value for money they provide. In the past I have spoken to the managers of our catering company, Autograph, who explained that they are contractually required to adhere to national nutritional standards (which are becoming increasingly stringent and less flexible) and to serve the same size portion at the same cost to each child. The argument for not increasing portion sizes across the board is due to huge amounts of waste. However, they will consider individual cases and will issue slightly larger portions where required – please come and speak to me if you would like me to talk to the chef about this.

Other areas for improvement suggested included: continued monitoring of the carpark to ensure the flow of cars, taking tougher action on people who abuse the carpark, increased leadership opportunities for pupils, staffing at sporting events, forest schools style learning opportunities, providing pupils with greater stranger danger awareness and Thrive. We are all committed to providing the very best possible experiences for all the children at Kea School and will be continually reviewing the provision we offer.

I leave you with two particularly heart-warming quotes from questionnaires: "Lovely caring staff who bend over backwards for the children," and "My child feels safe, happy and genuinely enjoys going to school there."

Thanks for all you do to support the school and please don't hesitate to come and talk to me if you have any concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Katherine Warren
Headteacher