

Parents Forum – July 2013

We asked:	You said or asked:	We replied:
<p><b>Question 1: How can we help parents develop their own skills, enabling them to improve how they support their children?</b></p>	<p>Parents felt that the phonics and mathematics workshops were very good and appreciated these. Parents felt they were really helpful in enabling them to support their child/ren and appreciated the support the school provides.</p> <p>Parents would appreciate it if these were held every year to support new parents coming to the school and parents whose children were making the transition into Key Stage Two.</p> <p>Parents queried whether there could be a selection of times – especially a later time slot to enable parents who work to attend. School drop-off and pick up times were felt to be good times as many parents were at the school anyway at these times.</p>	<p>That's great news, we will continue to offer these sessions and add new ones too.</p> <p>This year we have introduced a 'New Starter' morning. Miss Pendrigh will lead this workshop in the autumn term for all parents interested or requiring a refresher in school procedures and expectations.</p> <p>Where possible we will try to offer a selection of times and take on board that drop-off and pick up times are preferential.</p>

<p><b>Question 2: What are the barriers (if there are any) preventing parents from listening to children read? Can we help?</b></p>	<p>The main issues parents found were time and trying to achieve a balance for their children between school work and spending time outdoors/having free time. Many parents felt that it was also dependent on the individual child – some love reading and some do not and so it was at times more of a struggle. This was especially seen with children in reception who some days had had enough by the time they had finished school. Parents shared tips to help each other. All parents felt that everything possible was being done by the school to support them.</p> <p>Could we clarify if parent readers are CRB checked?</p>	<p>If any parent is struggling to engage their child and it is becoming a battle at home please speak to staff who will be willing to support and advise you.</p> <p>Parent volunteers who help out with a class, such as listening to reading or story -telling, are supervised by the teacher, and so are exempt from CRB checks or DBS as they are now known. Volunteers are not let loose with large groups of children at any time. They work under the authority of a teacher within the classroom.</p> <p>Volunteers in training or visiting school regularly are always vetted and receive a school lanyard as confirmation they have been cleared.</p>
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<p><b>Question 3: The children need to be heard read, tested on their spellings and tables three times a week- this is monitored by staff. The regular routine helps staff and children – is this something parents find supportive and manageable? Could this be tweaked? What can we do to help?</b></p>	<p>Parents liked the regular homework routine. Parents felt that the homework was pitched at the right level and the amount was right. Parents felt that although they found homework manageable, concerns were raised that if parents had more than one child at school it may be very time consuming. It was felt that too much homework was given to Year Six children over the summer holidays last year.</p> <p>It would be appreciated if children did not receive homework over Wakes week as they are very busy/tired.</p> <p>Also is there a possibility an INSET day could be held during Wakes week?</p> <p>Parents like that the school follows QEGS school holidays.</p> <p>Again it was felt that the school were doing everything possible to support them.</p>	<p>This year they didn't.</p> <p>We didn't set homework the week before or during Wakes in 2013.</p> <p>This is a consideration for future years if we are not working with an external provider and are able to accommodate such a request.</p>
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<p><b>Question 4: Can the parents please ensure that all children have a PE kit (clearly named) in school every day; we have a group of children constantly borrowing school kit which staff have to wash.</b></p>	<p>Parents felt that reminders would be useful on the newsletters and this would especially help the new starters. Reminders for parents to check the labels on the clothes children bring back would be helpful as often clothes were getting mixed up at school and not being returned for a length of time.</p>	<p>This will be done periodically throughout the year as a reminder.</p>
<p><b>Question 5: How do parents feel about school ringing if a child has forgotten homework or school kit? Is this something that they appreciate or find bothersome?</b></p>	<p>It was felt that ringing when children had forgotten kit was very much appreciated as it meant that the child does not miss out on a lesson. Parents felt that unless homework was important (a large piece of homework or homework that meant the children would not be able to take part in an activity without it such as the 'Bake Off') they should not be rung as they felt it was important to teach children responsibility and was this is good preparation for secondary school.</p>	

	<p>Every parent stated that they were very happy with the provision provided by the school. They stated that all of the teachers and staff were brilliant. It was felt that the settling in period for new starters was fantastic and they really liked the whole week induction period. They also liked how the older children were encouraged to support the younger children. Parents felt the Key Stage One teacher had a very positive impact on both academic and social development.</p> <p>In Key Stage Two parents really appreciated the SATs club that was provided and it was felt that the teacher always goes above and beyond what is expected to help the children.</p> <p>Parents also really appreciated the sports opportunities that were provided at QEGS as it was felt children enjoyed them and it helped children to meet children they would be moving to secondary school with. It was hoped these would continue</p>	<p>This will continue in 2013/2014</p> <p>Yes it will staff are preparing for the events and parents have all received a copy of the planned events for the coming year.</p>
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	<p>in the next year.</p> <p>Parents liked the wide range of trips the children had the opportunity to attend and were especially positive about the recent Red Rabbit event. The Pro Kick challenge was seen as a great fund raising opportunity – building children's confidence and parents thought good attitudes were shown by the children taking part. Although parents like that children take part in sponsored events it was felt that although parents didn't mind raising money for the school, there were too many external sponsored events.</p> <p>It was questioned whether external sponsored events could be limited to perhaps 2 a year?</p> <p>Could requests for money for trips/sponsors be spread more evenly throughout the year as there are times when they all seem to come at once?</p>	<p>This is accepted and therefore for 2013/2014 the external charities will be:</p> <p>Children in Need – autumn Prokick Challenge – summer</p> <p>We shall endeavour to meet this request.</p>
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	<p>Parents really enjoyed sports day and thought it was a great event however some were disappointed that some of the races began earlier than the advertised time and so parents/grandparents missed some of the earlier races.</p> <p>Parents really enjoyed the 'Teddy Bear's Picnic' and really appreciated that a lot of work had gone in to preparing the books for open evening.</p> <p>If this is continued in future years could it be renamed, for example 'Toy Picnic'?</p> <p>Parents with older children felt that it was a bit too young for them and this would enable them to bring in any toy rather than a teddy.</p>	<p>A programme of times and events will be published in future.</p> <p>If this is repeated then we will look at an alternative title to engage all age groups.</p>
	<p>It was felt at times that better/quicker communication would be appreciated, especially for those parents new to the school. It was felt that at times the finer details were missing from letters/emails.</p> <p>For example many parents didn't realise</p>	

	<p>all parents could attend the leaver's assembly; many assumed it was just for parents of Year Six children. Parents would appreciate more guidance with what they need to do for events within the school or what they need to prepare for their child well in advance. It was sometimes felt that this was left a little late, for example parents were only given three days' notice to get items together to make a 'sockosaurus' and there is often short notice for dressing up. Although items are on 'dates for your diary' well in advance, the details of what needs to be done are often not given until the last minute.</p> <p>Could school ensure that more details are given to school events to enable parents to know what they need to do?</p> <p>Could school ensure that parents are given plenty of notice for events so they have time to prepare and can book time off work if needed?</p>	<p>We do try to be as quick off the mark as possible but inevitably we do miss information or requests. As a staff we will do our very best to ensure we send information or requests home as soon as possible.</p> <p>The new school website which should be up and running very soon will have up to date information and reminders on.</p>
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	<p>Parents suggested perhaps using the board on the playground and the school notice board to remind parents. It was also hoped that the school website could include this information as that would also allow grandparents etc. to see dates to attend. Parents also recommended a parents group on the website where parents could communicate with each other and ask teachers questions.</p>	<p>Staff have already started using the noticeboard on the playground to remind parents about events taking place in school.</p> <p>There will be a page for parents on the new website. Details of how this will be available to parents will be published when the site goes live.</p>
	<p>Parents appreciated the open door policy at the school. They found staff were approachable and appreciated that staff were always willing to chat and would see parents on the same day if there were any concerns.</p> <p>Could parents have an opportunity to email their child's class teacher?</p> <p>Parents who worked felt that because they could not be at school at pick up/drop off and were not able to ring in school hours they struggled to relay concerns that had arisen that day/week.</p>	<p>All enquiries should be emailed to <a href="mailto:headteacher@parwich.derbyshire.sch.uk">headteacher@parwich.derbyshire.sch.uk</a> with the subject marked: FAO the member of staff you wish to respond.</p>

	<p>Parents recommended a parent induction – perhaps during the evening so fathers could also attend. Although features such as the behaviour chart were explained in their induction pack, it was felt seeing it helped it to be understood. It was also felt that it would be a good opportunity for new parents to understand school routines and ask questions.</p> <p>It was felt that the school offered a really good selection of clubs, especially for such a small school. French, tennis, art and eco were particularly popular. Although parents liked football it was felt that some children got very cold!</p> <p>Parents would like to see a general sports club where a variety of sports were played including rounders”, cricket, football etc. Could the sport played be aimed at the tournaments coming up?</p> <p>Could KS1 attend more tournaments?</p>	<p>This is a possible consideration for later in the autumn term.</p> <p>In the spring term we will where possible offer sports to coincide with forthcoming events.</p> <p>The focus for KS1 this term is PE.</p>
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	<p>The Nativity was praised as being 'fantastic, amazing and wonderful' and parents appreciated being able to buy a DVD.</p> <p>Could there be a later showing at 6:00-6:30 so working parents/relations could attend?</p>	<p>This year there is an evening performance.</p>
	<p>Parents really liked the Foundation Stage Report saying that they must have taken a lot of time and effort to produce. It was felt they were personalised to the individual child.</p> <p>Could there be more explanation of what the numbers mean? Some parents found them confusing and were unsure of what was good or meant children needed more support.</p>	<p>Yes this will be included in the EYFS end of year reports.</p>

	<p>Parents liked the Key Stage 1/2 reports and felt they were well explained and personalised also.</p> <p>Parents really liked the opportunity to be part of the parents' forum and those who had been previously felt the school responded well to the parents comments, for example limiting homework over the holidays.</p> <p>In conclusion all parents stated that they would like to thank everyone at school for their hard work and felt they were very lucky that their child/ren attended such a brilliant school.</p>	<p>Staff thank all the parents for their continuing support and kind comments.</p> <p>Your questions and suggestions help us to ensure ours is a happy and successful school.</p>
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