



Beechwood Primary Academy



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Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for responding to the recent Trust Parent Questionnaire. It was wonderful to see that even with the changes we have had to make because of the pandemic, including changes to staffing, that the majority of our parents are happy with the school and feel that their child likes school and that they are making good progress. 82% of parents felt that the teaching at the school is good and 90% felt that staff expected their child to work hard and do their best. One of the things that is most important to us is whether parents feel that their child likes school and is making good progress and I was really pleased to see that parents continue to feel that this is the case.

However, there are some areas where clearly parents are a little more concerned. Whilst this is not a significant number it is important that I address these views. One of these is the need for the school to encourage parents to take part in activities and events. As the school begins to open its doors with the lifting of restrictions after half term, this will give parents the opportunity to see, talk to and be involved with many events in school. Mrs Oliver is running several parent events in school, including some courses and a regular coffee morning. She also runs a walking group that is very popular and always lots of fun. These are wonderful opportunities to meet other parents, to have a quiet cup of tea or coffee and to talk to members of staff who will be attending each week. This is an opportunity for parents to share their views. Information about parent events in school are in the Newsletter or please contact Jenny Oliver or the Office who can give you more information.

Another area where parents raised concerns was the level of homework that is expected from children. Our expectations as a Trust, and a school, is that homework should focus on supporting key skills, in particular reading and other homework is set when necessary to support learning in class. Our expectations for homework are that children read every evening to an adult or a sibling, that they practice their times tables, using Times Table Rockstars and that they practice their weekly spellings. We know how important the opportunities are for children to engage in family time or clubs after school and at weekends, after working hard at school and we hope to support that by focusing our homework expectations on the key skills of reading, times tables and spellings, all of which support the basic skills of succeeding in school. Children have opportunities in the week to change their reading book and in KS1 and Early Years, the children have their books matched to their reading level. The children have access to a website called www.ttrockstars.co.uk and their

log in is usually in the front of their yellow reading record. Spellings come home each week, ready for their spelling test on Friday.

Occasionally, teachers may set some home learning linked to their topic. If you would like more opportunities to practice home learning, ESchools has several links and suggestions for learning, both of the key skills and sites linked to different subjects. The children generally know their log in, but it is also in the front of their yellow reading record.

For our families where English is not their first language, we have a special pen in the Office that will translate words when it is run over the writing. The languages it supports are Russian, French, German, Italian, Spanish and Chinese. If you would like to read a letter or a newsletter using the pen, please speak to the Office and they will assist you.

I thought it might also be useful to take the opportunity to let parents know how the Trust is improving the school and many parents will have noticed our new fencing to support safeguarding our children and to form a small playground for KS1 which is proving a great space for a run around. It is so much smarter and will last longer than our old wooden fence. In addition, we are also seeking funding for a new roof and we are planning a refurbishment of the Early Years outdoor environment to improve the layout and provision of the outside area for learning, most importantly the flexibility to engage in lots of different types of activities.

Thank you for the lovely comments that I have passed onto staff. As the country moves forward with less restrictions, we are hopeful that we can invite parents to assemblies later in the term, which has been much missed! We are determined to move forward from the past disruption and support our children in all areas of their learning and development to ensure that we minimise the impact of lockdown for the future. Please look at Facebook and the website that celebrates last term's learning journey. I think you will agree the children and staff have been extremely busy and the children have made incredible progress.

Kind regards,

Tamsin Bailey

Senior Head of School