20th January 2016

Dear Parents

I am writing in response to the Questionnaires you filled in last term answering some of the comments that were made. First of all thank you very much to parents who responded. Out of 55 families we had 24 Questionnaires returned. We have attached a grid showing the number of responses for each area.

The first thing I will say is thank you very much for the many positive comments that were made, as these are too many to note - here is a sample.

“The staff exceeds in giving a rounded curriculum with an emphasis on the happiness of the children”

**Squirrels -**“Excellent caring environment and very flexible”

“We are thrilled to send our children to such a great school and are under no illusions that we have been spoilt!”

**Pupils get help and support to do their best -** “When my child found spellings hard, a system was put in place immediately”

**My child enjoys their learning and coming to school –** “A day off for illness is seen as a bad thing!”

**The staff care about and are interested in my child’s learning and them as people –** “I feel you have taken the time to get to know my child” “One of the best things about the school.”

**Visitors made to feel welcome in the school –** “School operates with a very open minded and open armed approach – fantastic.”

A couple of issues have been raised by comments on the Questionnaire and as always I would like to respond to them.

**Curriculum Information**

Two parents asked about curriculum information and for more details.

If parents use the school website they will see that there is a weekly overview for Maths in Years 1 & 2, 3 & 4. There is also an overview for tables covered in Years 3 & 4. Weekly spelling lists are available for parents to see. There is also information there about our assessment of children and about the National Curriculum that we teach. We hope that this information in conjunction with our curriculum information meetings allows parents to have a solid foundation of information about their child’s learning. To a certain extent it is hard to give any more details as sometimes weekly activities are based on what knowledge and skills the children have taken on board or not, so planning may have to be adapted at the last minute.

**Music in School**

Three parents passed comment about music in school and if instruments were learnt.

Parents of younger pupils may not be aware that in Years 3 & 4 the class learn a musical instrument as part of the curriculum and all children use percussion instruments (instruments are not learnt at an earlier age as for many children their physical maturity means that it is extremely difficult for them to use instruments). The children do have a fantastic range of singing experiences and hear music from different composers/cultures as they have their celebration. We do try to extend musical experiences by bringing in musicians eg the drumming workshop or having live music in school eg Holly and Ivy performance where appropriate. We have had some enquiries about having an external music teacher to teach an instrument individually however when there only one or two children interested in learning a particular instrument it has always worked out cheaper to have individual lessons outside of school.

**Weather**

One parent asked if children had to go out in wet weather and if they were made to wear their coats.

When the weather is wet, we still go out to play as we expect all children to have waterproof coats and wellies/appropriate clothing. All children are asked to put on the right clothing for the weather and if necessary the staff who are out on duty will continually remind children to keep the right clothing on! If children are at school when it is raining without hoods, or hats to keep their heads dry we ask them to sit under the shelter at playtime. Some children need reminding more than others as they seem to enjoy getting wet, but I can reassure parents that we are continually asking them to keep their coats done up etc. etc. We have some exceptional rain recently but as children do not seem to notice it and are happy to play outside and our attitude is that it is better for the children to have fresh air and use up their energy, we do expect them to be able to go out to play in all weathers.

I hope that the responses above cover all aspects of comments that were made by parents about the school. If you do not feel that a comment you raised has been covered, feel free to get in touch with me.

Many thanks.