

## **Feedback from the post it boards at Parents' Evening on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October**

At the two Parent Evening events we asked for feedback about the school with ideas being written on post it notes and then fixed to the relevant question sheet. Thank you to everyone who was able to contribute. Attached is a summary of the comments together with some explanations as to why certain things are done the way they are in school. We also have a number of suggestions which we can look to implement.

If you would like to discuss any part of this report in further detail please do not hesitate to contact me,

Yours sincerely,

*Paul Johnson*

Headteacher

## What aspects of our school do you think are strengths?

Teachers and the quality of teaching.

Fourteen posts which talked about

- Happy teachers equalling happy pupils which makes learning easier
- The great team approach
- General feedback highlighting the quality of the teaching team or individual teachers
- Teaching staff being very approachable, welcoming and always willing to talk
- Standards achieved because of the quality of teaching and learning
- Friendliness of the staff
- The extra efforts that are made by teachers

*The teachers really appreciated this feedback and universally recognised the important support provided to them by parents and carers.*

Twelve posts considered the school environment and atmosphere as being important

- The open and welcoming feel
- The way in which first time parents to the school are involved
- Happy friendly atmosphere/ everyone approachable/family values embraced
- The extended family feel
- The size of the school so that all the children know each other
- Community ethos
- Safe and secure
- Positivity and motivation
- Good interaction between classes and different ages
- Level of energy within the school

*These comments are particularly pleasing for the staff because these are the values that we are constantly looking to instil into school life.*

Other comments

- School trips are excellent
- Children leave as well rounded individuals
- Continually challenging children at the highest level
- Good home school communication
- Parents being invited to a variety of events helps us to see how the pupils are progressing, it is also great to be involved
- The Friends of Dunnington provide untiring support and put on great events for us
- Just keep on doing what you are doing
- Fantastic school

*Again the staff appreciate the feedback and fully endorse the recognition given to The Friends who provide amazing support through their fund raising but also help to create the special community feel in the school in the way in which their many and varied events bring everyone together.*

### **What ideas do you have to make the school better?**

- Vegetarian/Non-meat options for school lunches

*The school lunches already cater for some pupils who are vegetarians. If parents can let school know that their child is vegetarian or has specific dietary requirements then the cook can provide an appropriate lunch unfortunately our kitchen is not equipped or staffed to be able to offer a choice of menu every day whereby half the children have one option and half have another option. If your child has any particular dietary requirements please contact Mr Johnson or the school office.*

- More school trips(3 mentions) and more school trips for Key Stage 1

*Unfortunately a planned educational visit for Key Stage One in June had to be cancelled before it could be announced.*

*We try to provide a range of educational visits and other opportunities for the support of pupil learning, however, because of the cost of transport visits are not always financially viable.*

- A trip to Mudwalls Tomato Farm to learn about life cycles and about food getting to the table

*We will consider ways in which this visit might be linked in with the curriculum.*

- After school clubs-

After school clubs for Reception

*Because there are only fifteen pupils it is difficult to provide clubs specifically for the Reception Class. As the year progresses we will look at opportunities for the children to become involved with other clubs within school.*

Choir Club all year round (it used to be amazing)

*Miss Thomas will be starting the choir after half term but it is a big commitment for her to run it all year round considering the many other duties and responsibilities that she already has.*

An Art Club more suited to older children

*We tried to run the Art Club to cover all ages.*

Gardening Club run by parents

*This sounds a good idea given the extensive grounds that we have at school. Mr Johnson will put out an email asking about interest in being involved. In the mean- time any parents or carers who would like to be involved in such a club should contact Mr Johnson.*

## Gymnastics Club

*We do gymnastics in PE lessons but at the moment we haven't got plans to run a club.*

## Dance Club

*We have previously run a street dance club and a dance exercise club and hopefully after half term we will have an after school dance club on a Monday*

## Netball Club

*A netball club is about to be started*

- *After school care provision like The Den possibly by external providers and Breakfast Club*

*We have looked into the use of external providers for care provision. In most cases the school agrees a contract with the provider and then has a financial commitment, usually around £45 per hour. The Den averaged 6 pupils per session this term and so a club from 3.30 to 5.30 would cost £15 per session for each pupil if they all attended for the full two hours. This is quite expensive and would require the school to sign a financial agreement for the payments. At the moment parents still have debts of £700 outstanding for The Den which makes further financial commitments a risk for the school.*

*Similarly a private provider for breakfast club would charge £45 for the session.*

- *More sports and to swim every Friday*

*Since September 2013 we have run after school clubs in football, tag rugby, kwik cricket, athletics, multi sports, multi skills, indoor rowing, dance, street dance, and have had coaches in school for golf and rugby. In addition we have had sports coaches in school working with classes. We have also had the bell boating events. Although we are constantly looking to expand the range of experiences for pupils we are limited by only having a small staff of teachers to provide the clubs.*

*We used to provide swimming for every pupil every week. However, this did lead to the majority of pupils in Green Class spending thirty minutes a week swimming lengths in a perfect swimming stroke. We felt that it is more productive for the pupils to have the amount of swimming time appropriate to their ability and to increase their skills in other aspects of sport. For this reason the amount of swimming sessions reduces as the pupils move through the school-*

*Red Class- 5 half terms of swimming*

*Blue Class- 4 half terms of swimming*

*Yellow Class- 2 half terms of swimming*

*Green Class- 1 half term of swimming*

*If pupils have not made the hoped for progress in their swimming, in negotiation with parents, we do provide additional sessions on top of the normal class times.*

- A shelter for parents to huddle under when it's raining

*This sounds a good idea and we will look into the costs of providing a shelter.*

- Provide information about timetables and the curriculum

*We are in the process of putting details of the curriculum onto our website and will also look to add timetables.*

- Heating in the hall

*There is heating in the hall but did not have it on for the Parent Evening.*

- Water fountain in the boy's bathroom

*There is a drinking fountain outside the KS1 bathroom and a water machine outside the KS2 bathroom*

- Introduction of a buddy system for the children

*Because the older children are very supportive of the younger pupils we have not pursued this option.*

- Children to sit on chairs in assembly

*Unfortunately the time spent putting out and putting away the chairs would impact upon learning. Storage of the chairs would also be a difficulty*

- A Maths Workshop for parents to learn about new methods of teaching , to find out how teaching has changed and thereby enabling parents to provide consistent support( 3 comments)

*A really good idea which we will start planning for. In the meantime we have arranged a Maths morning for Thursday 4th November 9.30-10.30*

- Parking-stop parents parking length ways/better parking for parents to drop off and pick up

*We put out regular reminders about parking but unfortunately a small number of parents continue to park without consideration for others.*

- Let the children select new class names. I'm sure they can do better than Red, Blue...

*We will look into this suggestion with the school council*

- Think a bit more about parents who have to work full-time e.g. lifts to church/bell boating

*We try to reduce these situations as much as possible. However as a church school we feel that it is important that the children do have the four visits each year for Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Leavers' Services .A number of parents do arrange for friends to transport their children and this seems to work out quite well.*

- Ability to email the school

*School email address is admin5203@welearn365.com*

**Other thoughts, concerns, questions and opinions.**

- Inviting in guest speakers e.g. farmers, engineers

*A good idea and we are always looking for guest speakers to work with the children or lead assemblies and thereby providing a real life context to the learning. If anyone has a particular job or life experience which they would be interested in talking to the children about then we would be extremely pleased to set this up. We know that in the past assemblies led by a town crier, a toast master, a missionary, an overseas aid worker and various charity workers have all been well received by the pupils. We have also had many speakers working with individual classes to enhance topic knowledge. We will continue to look for other speakers but please contact Mr Johnson if you have a particular idea or can offer a presentation*

- A debating society

*We will investigate the viability of this idea.*

- House points for reading throughout the school

*A good idea which we will implement immediately.*

- Please don't invite children to Art Club without asking parents first-not happy to pay for a club during the school day

*We apologise for what has happened with this club. The external provider carried out a recruitment process without our knowledge. Our policy is that any clubs which involve a payment also have a signed agreement from parents before children are able to join the club. We have tightened up our procedures since this incident.*