

We want to know what you think!

We would like to improve the community feel of our school and as governors we want to have a better understanding of the views of our parents. The restrictions that Covid has caused has made many things more difficult, one of them being our chances to have a chat in the playground!

Parental engagement is a powerful lever for raising achievement in schools. When parents and teachers work together to improve learning, the gains in achievement are significant.

Harris and Goodall, *Do Parents Know they Matter*, 2007.

We are hoping things will improve next year but we have some ground to make up and so are looking at ways to improve how we work together with parents. As part of a Multi-Academy Trust it is vital that school staff and governors understand parents views and work with the families to maintain the individual feel of the school.

In the new academic year we will be having a drop-in session for us to chat to parents and get a better understanding of our school's strengths and weaknesses from parents' perspectives. We'll provide alternative ways of contacting us for those unable to make the sessions. Going forward we would like to discuss other aspects of school life such as curriculum, behaviour and attendance and by working together hope we can improve children's experiences and attainment in school.

The effect of parental engagement over a student's school career is equivalent to adding two or three years to that student's education.

John Hattie, *Visible Learning: A Synthesis of Over 800 Meta-Analyses Relating to Achievement*, 2008.

We have tried various approaches to increasing parental engagement before and understand there are lots of different barriers that exist which prevent parents from sharing their views but improving this part of our school needs input from everyone. We aim to give several points of contact to make it easier for parents and hope more will be keen to work with us. More details on how to contribute will follow in September.

Our teachers and support staff have worked extremely hard to support all children through a very difficult year. They have faced many new challenges and rapidly adapted to new ways of working to minimise the impact that lockdown had on the children and their education. We would like to thank all the staff for their enormous efforts this year and are keeping everything crossed for a slightly less challenging time next year!

In other news.....

Visits to school have been severely hampered this year but we have been inventive and have used other ways of monitoring what's been going on at school. Throughout lockdown we were in regular contact, keeping track of how remote learning was working and the well-being of our children and staff. Following the full return to school we carried out some enlightening monitoring with the children and how they felt about their experiences of learning in lockdown as well as meeting with teachers to monitor the impact of lockdown on pupils' education and the measures in place to help pupils catch-up where required.

In the last few weeks once we've been allowed back on site we have managed to fit in monitoring of several key areas including health and safety, the learning environment, Sports Premium and Early Years. We have worked with the Trust Board to improve how governance works in our schools as well as undertaking training in Safeguarding and preparing for Ofsted.

Finally, we would like to wish everyone a lovely summer holiday!