



Petworth C of E Primary School – Questionnaire 2017 Results

Thank you to everyone who returned their questionnaires. It really does help us. Overall we are very pleased with the responses we have had back, although we do recognise that we need to continue to develop aspects of the school to ensure we reach our, and your, high expectations. The following are a few areas that do need some explanation.

Homework

Homework is something we strive to get right. Since I arrived, there is more consistency with our homework; each aspect of homework should only take 20 to 30 minutes and we would like every child to read every day. As you can see from the responses more people agree with this approach, but we are always looking for ways to improve homework and the impact it has on the children's learning. To stimulate the children further we will be looking at ways to use technology to engage them. During this term, all homework will be downloadable via each class blog; just in case the weekly homework has gone missing.

Communication

Ask anyone who has ever asked me a question and they will tell you that I can ramble on a bit. However we are always looking for ways to advise parents about what is happening in school. We have a weekly school newsletter, termly class newsletters, Twitter, reminders via emails and texts and information on our school website. We try hard not to include too much jargon, but if anything needs clarification please ask. All of our letters are sent digitally, which helps with costs as well as teaching children about being eco-friendly. We have also offered several different parent workshops to support parents with their child's learning and we will be looking to deliver more of these in the summer term. In addition, we are looking to update our website with links to helpful websites to further assist in helping your child's development.

I do agree that advising parents about the progress of children, throughout the year, needs improving. With this in mind, I would like to host our next parents' coffee morning at 8.30am on Friday 31st March to discuss your ideas. I look forward to meeting with as many of you as possible who can make it, to join me for a cuppa and a chat about your thoughts regarding this matter.

Extra-curricular activities

This term the school is offering thirteen after school clubs for the children. There are ten free clubs run by teachers and teaching assistants and three are provided by outside agencies which do incur a small charge. These clubs are quite diverse ranging from Textile to Netball and Science to Fencing. We are very fortunate to have so many after school activities to offer! In addition to these clubs we organise competitive events against local schools as well as music and dance festivals, which all impact on the time available for our staff and volunteers.

If you have a particular skill which you would like to share with the children and have time to volunteer and run an extra-curricular club on a weekly basis or would like to get involved by helping a teacher with an existing club please come and see me as we warmly welcome parents' help in school.

Behaviour

Behaviour of the children is something the school works hard at to ensure it reaches the highest standard. Low level disruption in class is very rare now and I believe our children are courteous, respectful and behave well. Of course children have their off days and they have to push the boundaries, but this is where they learn and is something the whole school community needs to nurture.

School Website

Mrs Trewin does a fantastic job ensuring our website complies with the statutory regulations. She is constantly updating the website and should anyone find something incorrect, out of date or if you feel you would like further information added to our website please let her know.

Parking

The site which the school is on is quite unique. With four educational buildings (The Children and Family Centre, Wakoo's Nursery, West Sussex Music Trust and ourselves) and the industrial unit of Chartwells, which was leased to them by WSCC, it is paramount that we limit the amount of vehicles entering the site. There is very little we can do to change the parking arrangements in and around the school, apart from encourage parents not to bring their vehicles on the school site. This does have an impact on our local residents, so please always park considerately. Remember we are also promoting Walk to School as part of the West Sussex initiative.

If you are interested in starting a 'Walking Bus' as part of a group of parents please come and see me as I would welcome your support with this initiative for the health and wellbeing of our children, from an eco-friendly point of view and to alleviate some of the parking issues.

Chartwells 'Hot Meals'

At lunch times, as you may be aware, all of the children in Reception and Key Stage One are entitled to a free school meal. In addition, children who qualify for Pupil Premium and children whose parents have paid for their meal get a hot meal. Due to the system that Chartwells have and the guidelines they have to adhere to, set by the Government, they do run out of some options. I have met with Chartwells and sent emails requesting clarification regarding several issues, which includes, 'If a parent pays for a meal they should be able to choose that meal and then their child will be guaranteed to receive their choice'. Unfortunately Chartwells have not got this facility at the moment. The two Chartwells ladies, who serve the children, do a fantastic job, but their hands are tied.

To ensure the same children do not miss out we have introduced a rotation system, which seems to be working well.

Thank you again for your responses to this questionnaire and if you require further information, please do not hesitate to get in touch.