



Irthlingborough Junior School

From the Head Teacher...



Parent Surveys

Two weeks ago a Parent Comms email was sent out to you all with details of Survey Monkey questionnaires. The questions are a direct copy of the Ofsted questionnaire. We separated the emails into year groups to enable us to get a clearer idea as to how you as parents feel about the return to school. There are some questions that you might not be able to answer as new parents but there is an option to select the 'Don't Know' choice when answering.

Data from the questionnaires will be shared with Governors during our next meeting in October. We will ask you to complete another questionnaire in the spring term at the same time as our spring Parent Consultation evening.

One of the questions concerns how we deal with bullying in school. Please, I urge you to come into school to talk to me, your child's classteacher or Mrs Meekings if you believe your child is being bullied in school. We make it our priority to investigate claims immediately when they are brought to our attention.

Governing Body

We have our second meeting of the Local Governing Body next week. The parent representative on the Governing Body is Karina Ward. This year we have new joint chair of Governors in Mike Fargher and Steve Gordon. As many of you are aware, Steve Gordon is the head teacher of Huxlow School and I am delighted to welcome him onto the governing body. I believe that it is the best interests of the children and schools to be working closely together with HUXlow. We are meeting once a fortnight and use this opportunity to find ways for the two schools to work closely together.

If you ever feel you need to contact a member of the Governing Body, then please call the school office first and they will give you email contact details. Or alternatively you can write a letter and hand deliver it to Mrs White in the school office. Any correspondence will be delivered directly to

the governors.

Cognitive Ability Tests (CATs)

Last week Year 6 children began sitting some online Cognitive Ability Tests. These tests (three short sittings) will produce data that will give us some really useful information about how individual children learn and their overall ability to learn. It also provides information about the ways in which children prefer to learn: whether they have a verbal bias or a spatial bias.

It is a fascinating process and one we intend to use to enable us to have very high expectations on what our children can achieve. By the autumn Parent Consultation evening, all the children will have taken the tests.

Pupil Premium Meetings

Mrs Meekings leads our Pupil Premium provision in school. If you didn't know, Pupil Premium is the money we receive as a school to raise the attainment of disadvantaged children. It is the school's decision in how to spend the money and the vast majority of the money has been budgeted for extra support from teachers. However, we have made a proportion of the funding available for enrichment activities like school trips. The purpose of the meetings next week is to consult with parents about the things that they would like the money spent on. If you are attending the meeting, thank you in advance for your time and commitment to informing us of your views.

School Planners

We have ordered planners for every child in the school. These are diaries with other sources of curriculum information for children to use at home and at school. This is the first time we have used them so it will be a learning experience for staff as well as you and your children. We hope you take the opportunity to use the weekly diary pages to communicate with your child's class teacher. We hope to have them in school before the October half term.

NPG