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# Hopton C.E.V.C. Primary School

Thelnetham Road, Hopton, Diss, IP22 2QY

Telephone: 01953 681449

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Headteacher  
Mrs Claire Wright

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October 2018

## **Re: Parent Survey**

Dear parents and carers,

Thank you to all those parents and carers who attended their child's consultation evening at the end of half term, and for completing the survey that was available to you on the night. I have been able to look at the responses and would like to feed back some of the information gleaned.

The results from the survey were extremely positive with a wonderful blend of praise, recognition for the team's dedication but also some good suggestions as to how to move elements of the school forward.

Mrs Clements (Chair of Governors) and myself collated and looked at some specific questions that the leadership team have been working hard on in relation to the school's development plan. We are very pleased to report the following statistics from the 70% of parents that responded.

- 94% of parents/carers believe their child is making good progress.
- 96% of parents/carers stated that their child is encouraged by staff to achieve his or her best.
- 93% of parents/carers believe the school promotes worthwhile attitudes and values.
- 90% of parents/carers stated that they are kept well informed of their child's progress.
- 92% of parents/carers are satisfied with the opportunities they have had to discuss their child's progress.
- 98% of parents/carers state that the school is well managed by the Headteacher and management team
- 92% of parents/carers believe that Hopton is well thought of in the community.

If for whatever reason you were unable to get your survey back to me before this time or indeed did not receive one on the night please feel free to come and get one, and of course I would be more than happy to analyse any further data collated. For anybody who had their consultation outside of the parents evening days, your teachers were given copies of the survey so hopefully you received them.

Mrs Clements and myself were delighted with such a positive message from the parents/carers and would like to thank you all for taking the time to fill the questionnaire in.



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## You spoke, we have listened...

There were a few recurring themes that were mentioned in the feedback which I would like to address.

There were some comments about the website in terms of out of date information and term dates. The website has been updated over half term and although we no longer place letters on the website page as we use Parent Mail, you can request copies of letters from the office. The move to remove all the letters from the website was a conscious decision when investing in Parent Mail to avoid doubling workload. We now make sure that any letters that require a response from parents are sent out on Parent Mail and as hardcopies, as I had become aware that the hardcopies were not always reaching home in a timely manner.

At the beginning of the Autumn term all parents/carers were sent out upcoming dates and events from September through to December. This list has now been added to the website under 'termly diary dates'. I hope this satisfies those of you who wanted easier access to upcoming dates. In time we may look to redesign the website and at the possibility of parent logs-in for class blogs. In the meantime, please remember that you are provided with half termly updates from the teachers, where class successes and learning achievements are celebrated through pictures and narrative. As well as this you receive a termly topic map that details the future learning planned. If you would like a more detailed breakdown of what your child is learning that week then please speak to your class teacher, I am positive they would be able to provide you with a quick verbal summary of what is coming up in the sequence of planning.

Many of you requested that all children that are nominated for the Headteacher's award are recognised weekly on the updates that are sent out on a Friday. I think this is a great idea, so please watch out for the next weekly newsletter where all the children will be celebrated.

Although communication across the school came out as a positive feature in the survey, I received a few comments around the accessibility of teachers. I would like to reiterate again that you are welcome to come and speak to class teacher's in the morning and as I am on the gate welcoming you all into school daily, I know that parents speak to teachers as and when they need too. The change to the morning drop off arrangements was made due to safeguarding reasons and also to allow teachers to swiftly move to teaching and learning in the morning without a stream of interruptions. When the gate is closed in the morning and I return into school, I see



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settled, independent children ready for their learning with lessons already beginning. I feel this has been a very positive move for the children and their learning.

Some parents would like direct access to the teachers via email, however the removal of class Dojo was a conscious decision for the wellbeing of the teachers. In consultation with other Headteachers across the Partnership I feel confident that this decision fits with the ethos of other practitioners. Reducing teacher's workload has been a paramount concern for myself and the Governors and we have actively sort ways in which to reduce the expectation of reading and responding to multiple Dojo's/emails daily. If you need to urgently speak to the class teachers you can catch them in the morning, or at the end of the day. At this point you can arrange a meeting if this is required. You can always send an email to the office where all information will of course be treated in the strictest of confidence. If you do not wish to include details of what you wish to discuss in the body of the email to the office, then you can request the teacher rings you at their earliest convenience.

Finally, a smaller occurring theme was regarding the portion sizes of the school dinners and how much choice is available. As I have been a regular attender in the dinner hall I can assure parents that the portion sizes are fair and that as a mother of two I have no concerns about the amount of food that is available. However, how receptive children are to eat all the food offered to them is variable. The midday supervising team are extremely good at promoting good eating habits and encouraging the children to try unknown foods or eat more. We have recently introduced stickers into the dinner hall to recognise children who are trying foods and displaying good manners. I acknowledge that some parents would prefer their children to have more choice when they have hot dinners but due to the nature of the 'family service' this is difficult to manage. I have considered moving away from the family service but when you witness the older children serving the younger ones, you appreciate what a special arrangement we have here at Hopton.

I do hope this letter has gone some way in explaining some of the queries raised in the survey's and that many suggestions have already been actioned, with others being considered for the future. As I have sought the opinions of the parents, I would now like to hear from the children themselves. Shortly I shall be sending out a questionnaire for children to complete at home with you. Details of how to submit the pupil survey will be added to the letter.

I leave you with you some of the comments that came from the parent survey and thank you as always for your continued support.

***'I feel very comfortable with the school and the progress my child is making. Since moving schools, my child is more happy in school and eager to learn and tell me about their day'***



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***'As a new family we are very happy with our decision to join Hopton. The support received initially with joining and making our child feel welcome was excellent.'***

***'I feel really happy with Hopton School and the support both my child and us as parents receive.'***

***'Love the family service at dinner times. It's lovely to hear that the children all mix and eat dinner together.'***

***'You do a great job with involving the parents eg book looks and share afternoons. Great way of knowing what is going on in school.'***

Kindest Regards

Mrs Claire Wright  
Headteacher

