



BROAD CHALKE C. OF E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newtown, Broad Chalke, Salisbury, Wilts, SP5 5DS.

Tel: 01722 780212

e-mail: admin@broadchalke.wilts.sch.uk website: www.broadchalke.wilts.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Amanda Brockway

Chair of Governors: Mr Michael Gibb



21st March 2019

Dear Parents

Parent Survey

Please find attached a summary of the results from the Parents Survey. This has been shared with teachers and governors. The governors were wondering how parents would like to be able to communicate with governors. We have tried having governors in during parent teacher meetings but it doesn't feel like this is the best time for parents and governors to talk. **If you have any suggestions, please do email our chair of governors Michael Gibb via the school office.**

A few issues came up in what was overall an extremely positive parent survey. The governors suggested that I respond with some general points paraphrasing some of the comments into questions so that we can explain why we do things the way we do. This is not meant to come across as defensive, simply to give some understanding behind our decisions. There were lots of supportive comments too, some of which I've included at the end.

Why do boys and girls have to line up separately in the playground?

Although some schools are going for a 'gender neutral' approach, this is not something which we are considering at present. Boys and girls line up separately because it is the quickest and easiest way to get 30 children to line up into 2 shorter lines which makes it easier to manage the children rather than having 1 long line of 30 or 2 lines but children not sure which line to get in.

Why can't every child wait until their table has finished lunch before they go out to play?

We have over 200 children to feed in 1 hour. If the whole table had to wait for everyone to finish we would not get everyone in the hall and fed in this time. However, in response to concerns raised by parents last year, children do have to put up their hand and check with an adult before they go out to play.

Why aren't a wider range of fresh vegetables served, not just peas and carrots but green leafy vegetables?

A wide range of vegetables are served but lots of them are hidden within the recipes otherwise children wouldn't eat them. For example, the kitchen uses broccoli, cauliflower, onions, sweet corn and green beans often hidden in goulash, pizza, stews and lasagne. So, although carrots and peas are what are on the serving counter, a lot more is going on behind the scenes. We do of course also have to consider cost when planning the school lunch menu and peas and carrots are more affordable. In addition to the vegetables, there is also a salad bar available everyday with lettuce and cucumber etc. I think it's also worth pointing out that we are very fortunate to have high quality lunches cooked on site, not all Primary Schools offer this.

Why can't the school have more parking?

When the school was built the Council were only going to allow for 9 parking spaces and that included parking for staff! Governors had to protest strongly to get more parking and have developed more parking over the years by renting the space which we call the overflow car park and having an agreement with the Sports Centre that parents can park there. We probably have the largest car park of any primary school around here and a larger car park than some secondary schools! To create more car parking would mean taking space away from our play areas and then there is also the planning permission and the cost. School budgets are already under pressure and we have to prioritise our spending. The overflow car park which we rent is in need of repair and, as parents have suggested this would help, this is something which we plan to address with the voluntary help from some governors. On the subject of parking, please can I advise parents that if there is not a space in the school car park please do not wait (particularly by parking on the roundabout) as we end up



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with gridlock and then the buses cannot get out. If there are no spaces please drive out and ideally park in the sports centre car park or allow time if you can to park in the Church car park.

Why aren't there more staff supervising Early Birds?

We have 3 members of staff supervising Early Birds and around 45 children attend so the ratio is very reasonable. We used to only have 2 staff supervising but in response to parents we increased this to 3 in 2017. We also have the bus children supervised by Mrs White. Sometimes they are all outside together but the staff know who they are responsible for. Early Birds staff are not responsible for children who arrive early but are not booked into Early Birds; those children are the responsibility of their parents. Two school staff are on duty at 8.50 as that is when school becomes responsible for the children. One staff member from Early Birds also stays outside to supervise lining up in the morning.

Why isn't there more homework/ why isn't there less homework?

Homework always seems to be the issue which divides opinion more than any other issue on a school survey. We have a homework policy which sets out what we believe to be the right amount of homework. In the younger years this is mainly reading and learning sounds. This needs to be done daily for children to make progress. There has been a noticeable decline in the number of parents hearing their children read regularly and signing the reading records and teachers are often having to chase up homework.

Why isn't there more after school clubs / childcare?

I don't think we can offer any more after school clubs than we do already! In response to suggestions from parents we have increased this to 17 after school clubs and 5 lunchtime clubs. Many staff offer clubs for free and in their own time. After school child care is a separate issue. We don't have a space that we can offer for after school childcare because of all the clubs which are running and teachers need to be able to work in their classrooms after school.

Why can't we have online payments?

In response to suggestions from parents, we have been investigating various companies and will be ready to launch this soon. Please be aware that they may be a few teething problems though.

Why don't I get separate letters from my ex-partner when it's a paper letter not an email?

If parents who live apart want to receive separate letters, they simply need to supply the school with a book of stamps and we will post letters to parents. This arrangement has worked well in the past but parents need to take the initiative and ask the school office.

Why don't we get a printed list of holiday dates anymore?

TD Days are always put out in newsletters as these are different in every school. Wiltshire school holiday dates are available online and in the interests of saving paper and time we no longer print these out. The onus is on parents to look them up just as we all do with, for example, council bin collection dates.

Why don't staff have plastic lids on coffee/ tea mugs?

Yes there is a risk with hot drinks but our staff have been asked not to drink boiling hot drinks around the children. Often, because they are so busy, staff are lucky to if they get to drink a lukewarm cup of tea or coffee. Any drinks being taken from the staffroom at the end of playtime or lunchtime are unlikely to still be boiling hot. We are also trying to reduce our use of plastic.

Why are parents, attempts to be involved and questions about aspects of teaching etc. apparently not welcome?

Ideas from parents are welcome but sometimes ideas have been suggested which would add significantly to staff workload so I have had to explain why what might work at nursery school or a school with very small classes would not work for us. I feel we try very hard to take on board suggestions from parents and to get parents involved. FOBS are often begging people to get involved! Parental involvement is very much welcomed but we have to make sure we have meet safeguarding requirements so cannot give parents open access to the school. Parents are also welcome to raise questions about aspects of teaching but ultimately we have to make a professional decision based on what we consider to be in the best interests of all the children and the resources which are available to us.



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Why can't parents have a copy of the termly planning?

Parents have access to an overall plan for their child's class on the school website. Teachers adapt their weekly planning according to the needs of the class. To produce another plan for parents covering the whole curriculum for the term would be a large workload issue for teachers and we are trying to reduce teachers' workload not increase it. Teacher workload is a national issue and the school leadership team and governors have a duty to promote staff well-being.

Why aren't parents contacted when their child is going to receive a Headteachers award?

There are several reasons why teachers don't contact parents about this. Teachers often don't decide until the Friday morning who is going to get an award as they need to reflect on the week. There are also issues with how best to contact parents. A note in a book bag on a Thursday could easily be missed and wouldn't help those parents who need to book time off in advance in order to attend celebration assembly. Emails from the school office would add to the workload in the school office and they are already stretched to get everything done. A phone call on top of all the other calls which teachers have to make is also difficult when teachers are with pupils all the time except in their breaks which they often are working through already. We did try it in the past and it ended up creating more problems because the teachers really struggled to find time to do it and then parents got more upset. But the most important point is that if parents only came when they get an 'invite' that would significantly change the feel of Friday celebration assembly. We are all there to celebrate all the children and to hear about what the children have been learning that week. The awards are for the children and although it's lovely as a parent to witness your child getting a special award it is a whole school celebration. The staff and I have talked about this many times and decided we want to keep it as it for all the reasons above so it is a school decision not to inform parents.

Why can't parents be given informal comments / feedback during the term too (in addition to parents' evenings) either verbally at collection or notes in reading record?

I would hope that there are some informal exchanges verbally between teachers and parents at pick up time but there are 30 children in most classes so realistically the teachers can't do this for every child every week. Notes in reading records are also not practical. The teachers are busy teaching the children; they don't have time to write notes in reading records to give parents feedback – unless it's feedback about reading which they write whilst listening to a child read. Parents need to adjust to the difference between nursery/ pre-school communications and school communications just as when children reach secondary school parents will need to adjust again because communications tend to be much less. If parents need to discuss anything with their child's teacher outside of the termly parent teacher meetings, parents just need to make an appointment via the school office.

I don't understand the way spellings are taught so I can't help my child.

The spellings were explained at the Meet the Teacher meetings but we understand not everyone can make it. If you or your child don't understand how to do something please just ask and staff will be happy to explain.

Positive Comments

- We're really happy with the school especially the community feel to it and how obviously hard all the staff work.
- Caring, happy environment in classrooms. Children are happy and are taught great values.
- As new starters to school life we have had a very positive experience all round.
- The teachers have all been very friendly and helpful and the school has been very welcoming.
- Thank you so much for all the hard work that goes on behind the scenes!
- I have found the standard of care and support consistently good. My children are supported in their learning and feel good about school.
- We are really pleased with the school. Nothing negative to report, our daughter is making excellent progress academically. She is happy and settled and all her teachers are great.
- Since my daughter started the school she has been given incredible support and encouragement.
- Broad Chalke is a caring school with a lovely 'community' feel. Both of our children are very happy at the school and we are lucky to have such supportive, wonderful teachers to teach them! Thank you.
- Amazing school, extremely well run.

- *Incredibly pleased with the school. Very grateful to all teachers / staff and governors for their hard work and outstanding effort!*
- *Great school – we are lucky to have one in the village.*
- *Our daughter bounces in and out of school each day. She thoroughly enjoys the atmosphere and is very fond of her teachers so far. We feel very happy that she feels so happy and content. Thank you.*
- *My son has grown both in self-esteem, confidence and across his academics.*
- *A school that offers great support as and when required. The curriculum is well balanced and approach to homework appears to be unique. My child is very happy at Broad Chalke.*
- *We are delighted with the care and learning opportunities that our child has. He has constantly had excellent teaching, thinks independently and values his school experience. He is proud to go to Broad Chalke and this can only be because of the work of the teachers and teaching assistants. Thank you.*
- *The parents' evenings are always excellent and you realise the quality of marking and the attention given to individual needs.*
- *I feel that the Y2 job share works really well, seems really positive for the children with loads of energy and enthusiasm in the class.*
- *Teachers are kind and create lovely environment for the children.*
- *Encouragement has been shown throughout to encourage progression in weaker subjects to aid development. I love the additional homework and will always welcome this.*
- *Broad Chalke is a wonderful school. I feel like everyone really cares about my child. Parents at other schools often comment on how amazing the after school clubs are at Broad Chalke.*
- *We are immensely proud to be part of the Broad Chalke school community/ family. All the staff offer so much to our children- not just within class but with all the diverse clubs and activities on offer. It's everything you could wish for in a primary school and more.*
- *From the start the school and its staff have welcomed us with open arms. Our child enjoys all that is on offer at Broad Chalke and is very happy coming to school. We feel very fortunate we had a place at Broad Chalke.*
- *Very impressed with how bullying was dealt with.*
- *A strong sense community and a supportive ethos is evident at all levels of staffing. There is a strong sense of co-operation with the parental body.*
- *Extremely pleased with the school.*
- *School food is great.*
- *I love Broad Chalke and am truly grateful for all the education provided.*

Thank you to all parents who took part in our survey. It really does help us to keep improving and for the staff to feel appreciated by receiving positive feedback which is important for staff morale.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Amanda Brockway
Headteacher

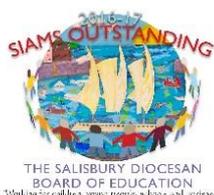
Parent Questionnaire (February 2019) Total number of responses = 92

Number of results per year group	
	Reception – 16
	Class 1 – 18
	Class 2 – 11
	Class 3 – 10
	Class 4 – 14
	Class 5 – 12
	Class 6 – 11

Would you recommend this school to another parent? YES – 89, NO – 0, DEPENDS ON CHILD – 3



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Whole School Results Parent Questionnaire (February 2019)

Please tick the appropriate box.		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know / N/A
1.	My child is happy at school.	60	32			
2.	My child feels safe at school.	68	24			
3.	My child is making good progress at school.	52	36	3		1
4.	My child is well looked after at school.	72	20			
5.	My child is taught well at school.	65	26	1		
6.	My child receives appropriate homework for their age.	44	29	12	2	5
7.	My child is taught to be well behaved at school.	64	27	1		
8.	Has your child experienced bullying YES / NO If YES did staff deal effectively with bullying? If NO please tick 'don't know / N/A.	YES 9	YES 5			NO 78
9.	The school is well led and managed by the senior leadership team and governors.	63	24			5
10.	The staff respond well to any concerns.	54	32	3	2	1
11.	I feel comfortable about approaching the staff with questions or a problem.	54	32	6		
12.	I receive valuable information from teachers about how well my child is doing at school.	45	36	11		
13.	Staff expect my child to work hard and do his/her best.	67	25			
14.	Parents are given opportunities to get involved with the school.	62	28	2		
15.	Governors and senior leaders listen to the views of parents if they raise an issue.	30	27		2	33
16.	Staff encourage my child to become mature and independent.	57	33	1		1
17.	There are a good range of activities that my child finds interesting and enjoyable.	62	29	1		
18.	The arrangements for my child to settle in when he/she started at the school were good.	63	25	3		1
19.	There are opportunities for curriculum enrichment i.e. Arts Week, school visits and visitors to the school	79	13			
20.	The ethos of the school helps children develop sound values and positive attitudes	66	26			
21.	Information is effectively communicated e.g. newsletters, website, Classlist, Instagram	64	27	1		