



Reaching for the Stars!

25/5/2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Response to Parental Questionnaire April 2023

This letter is in response to the feedback which we received from the Parental Questionnaire which we sent out to all parents and carers in April 2023.

Firstly, we would like to thank those parents who took the time to complete the questionnaire. It was encouraging to read so many positive comments from parents and carers who really do appreciate the valuable job that our teaching staff do, and who recognise what a lovely school Davyhulme Primary School is. We really do value your feedback as it enables us to constantly review our policies, practices and procedures to ensure that our school continues to deliver the very best educational experience for your children that we possibly can.

Our two main drivers in everything that we do are: 1. to ensure that our children are happy, and 2. to ensure that our children do the very best that they can in their learning. We truly believe that every child is capable of achieving, and that there are no limits to success. This is firmly linked to our mission statement, 'Reaching for the Stars' and our core values: we are caring, we are ambitious, we are courageous and we are collaborative. Our staff work exceptionally hard to provide the very best educational experiences for our pupils. Our intent is always to do our very best for your children. However, we acknowledge that there is always room for improvement and that it is important to be reflective so that we can continue to develop and keep moving forward. This is why it is important to listen to, and to reflect on constructive feedback.

Communication is an area which we received perhaps the most constructive feedback on. Some parents commented that they felt that there are too many channels of communication which can cause confusion; some felt that there is not enough, whilst others are happy with how important information is shared. Clearly, it is difficult to please everyone!

We would like to reassure you that we do constantly review and reflect on our different methods of communication to ensure that we reach as many parents and carers as possible. Evidently, there is still work to do in this area which is why we propose to send out another questionnaire to parents specifically on the subject of communication, so that we can continue to tighten up and improve our procedures. As a school, we believe that we work very hard to reach out to parents and to share important information as widely as we can. To clarify, this is done through the following approaches:

- **Parent Pay** - this is for **whole school communication** e.g. to share information about whole school events such as Parents' Evening. Parent Pay communications are shared via email or text. Please note, it is the responsibility of parents to activate your Parent Pay accounts in order to receive these communications. Our administration team will send out information about this again in September for any parents/carers who have not yet done this.
- **Seesaw** - this is our online learning platform. It is used by teachers to communicate with parents and carers **about issues that are specifically linked to their class/year group**. It is also used for teachers and parents/carers to communicate with each other by sending messages. Seesaw is also a space to celebrate children's learning and for parents to find out more about the curriculum and what the children are learning about. Please do let us know if you are struggling to activate your account.

- **Planners** - this is a more traditional method of communication in which parents and teaching staff can communicate by writing down messages. The children's planners also contain a wealth of useful information about school policies and procedures, as well as some excellent resources which can support your child's learning at home.
- **School Website** - we are very proud of our school website and we would really encourage parents and carers to look at it on a regular basis. The website is constantly updated with the latest news, dates and information about events. Any 'urgent' messages will always be posted on the 'ticker tape' which scrolls along the top of the page, and will also appear in a box on the first page. Any letters that are sent out via Parent Pay are also available on the school website to download. In addition, the website contains a plethora of statutory information that we are required to share with parents/carers including policies, Ofsted reports, assessment data and information about our curriculum.
- **What is my child learning?** If any parent is uncertain of what their child is learning, this information can easily be found on the website. We have detailed information about every subject in the curriculum, as well as more detailed information about what each year group will be learning. Teachers also provide termly 'Curriculum Newsletters' for parents and carers which outlines in even more detail about what your child will be learning. Finally, the website is also a space to celebrate our wonderful school and our commitment to a broad and balanced curriculum. We really would encourage you to take a regular look at the many photographs that we share to celebrate our children's achievements, and also to give you an insight into the many varied activities that take place in our school throughout the year.

In addition, we aim to run more parental workshops; introduce monthly coffee morning 'drop ins' for parents; send out regular newsletters, and provide more opportunities to invite parents to come into school to see what the children are learning.

Another area that we are working hard to develop and improve is to ensure that more parents are aware of what your child is learning, and how well your child is doing in school. We believe that our Curriculum Newsletters contain lots of valuable information about what your child is learning, however, we will continue to adapt and improve these next term so that they contain all the essential knowledge and key vocabulary for every subject. We will also ensure that these are shared on Seesaw, as well as the school website so that as many parents and carers as possible read them.

In response to some of your feedback, we have decided to reinstate the 'Meet the Teacher' meetings at the beginning of each academic year. This will provide the opportunity for parents and carers to meet your child's class teacher on an informal basis; see the setting where the children work, and also to find out about the curriculum and expectations for the year ahead. This will also provide an opportunity for parents to raise any questions. We will also provide parents with some written information about your child's new class teacher and the year ahead in July.

School continues to keep parents and carers informed about how well children are doing through the two formal Parents' Evenings and the written report at the end of each academic year. This is where teachers will report on the attainment and progress of children. If parents still feel that they require additional information about how their child is performing in school, parents are always welcome to contact the class teacher via Seesaw to request this information.

Finally, we would like to thank parents for your feedback on residential trips. We acknowledge the disappointment felt by some pupils and parents about the cancellation of trips. As a school, we feel it is important to recognise that we have always gone above and beyond by offering two residential trips for our pupils in both Year 5 and Year 6. This is actually quite rare amongst primary schools, and clearly demonstrates our commitment to a broad and balanced curriculum over the years. However, as with all things, nothing ever stays the same and as a staff, it was felt that the time had come for change.

After a period of serious reflection and consultation, our whole staff felt that they would be unable to continue with the residential trip to Grasmere which, unlike the outward bound type trip in Year 6, is supervised solely by our teaching staff, day and night. The demands of looking after children through the night, whilst also be responsible for leading activities throughout the day, were considered to be too great. However, as a staff we

do recognise the value of residential trips, and we are pleased to inform you that we are currently discussing how we can reinstate a residential trip for our Y6 cohorts in the years to come. This will be the outward bound type trip, such as Robinwood, where activities will be led and supervised by qualified professionals. Any decisions and plans for a residential trip that we decide on will need the approval of the Governing Body before we can proceed. We will keep you fully informed once the discussions have been completed and any plans that have been approved by governors.

Finally, from your feedback, it is clear that there are some individual issues/concerns which some parents and carers may have. We would encourage parents and carers to communicate with school about this, so that we work together to find a resolution. All that we ask is that parents raise any concerns in a polite and professional manner.

Thank you once again for your continued support and for your overwhelmingly positive and constructive feedback. We hope that this letter reassures parents that we do listen and that we do value your feedback. I am sure that we will all agree that we are all acting in the best interests of the children, and that working together in partnership is always the best approach.

We aim to share the survey about communication with parents after half term, so please look out for this on Seesaw and Parent Pay.

Thank you for your continued support. It is very much appreciated by all of our staff.

Yours sincerely,

P.McDowell

Mr P. McDowell - Head teacher

K.Brookes

Miss K. Brookes - Deputy Head teacher.