



Feedback from Parents' Forum – February 2015

Thank you for attending the Forum. This is an important aspect of school life that enables us to keep you updated on progress towards our strategic aims as well as a vehicle in which we can seek your opinions on new ideas. We want to find out from you what is working well and where we could make improvements.

You say...	Our response...
<p><u>We asked for your feedback on 2 particular aspects:</u></p> <p>1. <u>School report format:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You like the section for next steps (areas of development) and the section that informs you of any interventions that have taken place with your children • You like the fact that you can have information about the amount of effort your children are putting into each subject. • You believe that the reports will be clear and concise (SMART) • You would welcome a larger comments box for parents/carers to write in • You are anxious that the report should be personal to each child and reflect what is individual about them • You would welcome further clear communication about the new assessment levels (Age Related Expectations) 	<p>We are pleased that you like our new report format. We will ensure that the comments box is enlarged and hope that parents/carers will respond to what the teachers have said. We will ensure that the children's reports reflect what the teacher knows about the children and is personalised to them. Our underpinning principle when undertaking any assessments and writing reports is reflected the following quotation: "Meaningful assessment between an adult and child is an act of love" (Kidd,D. 2014)</p>
<p>2. <u>Parent Consultations:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You liked the opportunity to book an appointment across the week • You believe some parents would like later times • You suggest splitting timings for different key stages or using other rooms so that your appointments felt more private • Some of you would like an opportunity to see your children's learning environments • You suggest that an online or email 	<p>We are concerned that you feel able to talk to the teachers about your children's progress and well-being and would like to remind you that you can arrange to make an appointment at any point in the year to meet with the class teacher to view your children's work. This is particularly important if you would like to discuss confidential and sensitive matters. Do look out too for invitations to our 'super starters' and 'fabulous finishers' and ensure you are looking regularly at our website – lots of the children's achievements are on view! We understand during the last round of parent</p>

<p>booking system may be better for those parents who don't collect or bring their children to school</p>	<p>consultations that, at certain times, the hall seemed busy with parents and some younger siblings who found it difficult to sit still! During parent consultation in term 4 we will set up consultations in the meeting room, professional library, Y1 nest and the hall. We will use screens to divide the teachers' spaces and also offer a crèche for younger children. We hope that this will secure a space more conducive to discussion - as well as ensuring that our teachers are not in isolated classrooms. We will be trialling an online booking system that we hope will make this process easier for all.</p>
<p><u>We also asked you to comment on any other aspects of school life:</u></p> <p><u>What is working well at River Mead School?:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The children are so happy and enthusiastic about their learning they won't stop talking about it! Ever changing displays of children's work • Playground zones are very popular • More frequent enrichment opportunities through science days, visiting authors music teaching (e.g ukulele) • Inclusion of Resource Base children at playtime • The community assemblies give the children a chance to be a part of, and learn more about, our wonderful community 	<p>We are delighted to hear that the children are happy at school. We see evidence of that every day. We understand that it is only when the children feel safe, valued and stimulated that they will learn at their best.</p> <p>We have worked hard this term to ensure that all the children feel included in all aspects of schooling. Our Duckling Class have moved to an environment that provides for their needs and enables them to mix with their peer group. The Ducks class are moving to a classroom that holds a more central position in the school. All children are included in assembly, lunch and play times. We want River Mead School to be recognised as an inviting and inclusive environment.</p>
<p><u>What would be even better if...</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication with new parents – explaining what the various roles and expectations of meetings • Could the Prefects' graduation be 	<p>We understand that we need to ensure that we explain the purposes of meetings (Parent's Forums etc) and not just give the dates to our new parents and will do so in our future parents welcome. We will also put a summary of these on our website.</p> <p>We are pleased that you recognise the important</p>

<p>celebrated by everyone?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular communication • Organisation of clubs • Online access to home work so parents/carers know what the children are expected to do • Regular spellings home • A space for tag at lunchtime 	<p>role that our prefects play in acting as leaders and role models. The graduation ceremony was delightful and well attended. We have also published congratulations on our newsletter, Twitter feed and celebration assembly.</p> <p>We send out regular communication to you via school newsletters, curriculum booklets, texts and we aim to update our Twitter feed daily. Our website is full of useful information too. We have moved back to paper copies of the newsletters in response to parent feedback and are beginning to make more use of the notice board displayed at the school gates. Let us know if we can make further improvements. Thank you</p> <p>There are many clubs that children can participate in at River Mead School. We recognise that clubs benefit the children in many ways, through social interaction, working together with different aged children, to achieving a goal. Clubs can change termly and are relevant to the time of the year and the needs of the children. Children are given options on the clubs that are running for the following term and permission slips must be returned before clubs begin. Clubs are very rarely cancelled.</p> <p>The children have 'Home Learning' books and the tasks are detailed in these and sent home on a Friday. The expectation is that children will have completed the learning by the following Wednesday. Teachers will value and respond to the learning completed. Some parents/carers do not have access to online facilities but we will look at introducing this if the demand is high. Thank you for the suggestion.</p> <p>Spellings are sent home weekly. Spellings are a combination of words that the children have used in their writing and key words. These are sent home in the children's planners</p> <p>We have already ensured that a space for children to play tag is now available. This has been a popular addition (especially for the Y5s) Children have been reminded that they need to ensure they are following our Golden Rule in this, and all, aspects of their play.</p>
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