

St Christopher's CE Primary School  
Parent Questionnaire Feedback Sessions  
8 May 2024

Thank you to those of you who attended the feedback sessions on 8th May, both at school and online. For those who were unable to attend, here is a summary of what was discussed.

**Parking**

- We all need to be parking safely and we ask all parents/carers to stop parking on the corners and zigzags just outside of school as this is against the law. We all have a role to play in safeguarding children.

**Developing our use of forest school**

- We are hoping to have a clear plan for more outdoor learning from September.

**Can we have water bottles on desks?**

- There is no plan for this at the moment, as bottles frequently spill or get knocked over. Children can help themselves to water throughout the day and if necessary, can have their bottle on the floor by their chair.

**Too many non-uniform days**

- We will aim to plan these more carefully with advance warnings. We will also include a mix of cash/online donations.

**Healthier options at breakfast and after school clubs**

- This is currently under review. Food options are determined by cost, delivery and use by dates. Mrs Veeder is working with staff to ensure that there are healthy choices.

**Too little homework**

- Some parents have asked for more, some parents like the fact that we only focus on daily reading and timetables. Research shows that homework has little or no impact. However daily reading has a huge impact not only on a child's ability to read, but other aspects of their learning.
- We have 'knowledge organisers' that parents can use for homework tasks.

**Communication**

- This is an ongoing challenge. The newsletter has all the important information (rather than Dojo). Please check through the newsletter carefully.
- Please check your notification settings for Dojo to ensure that you get all the updates and feel free to share with family members.
- Parents are encouraged to contact the class teacher or Mrs Veeder/Miss Brown for a meeting – we will aim to see you as soon as possible.

### **Shuffle up day/ class splits**

- We recognise that this is hard and the process is determined by the number of children enrolled for September.
- We know that some children struggle with this transition, and we are trying to give these children extra support. We have never moved a child based on parental preference. We want to avoid parents discussing the classes before the children are told.
- Class splits have always been determined by birth dates. However, for some children with SEN or SEMH needs, we would look at what would work best for that child, though this isn't typical.
- 'Meet the teacher' events in September will give parents the opportunity to see their child's classroom and meet the new teacher.
- We understand that it can be difficult when friends are split up. The children explore the topic of 'transitions' in PSHCE in the summer term, helping them to manage the transition to a new class and encourage children to mix at lunch/play time and we will do what we can.

### **Shouting**

- We have a no shouting policy and we apologise if members of staff have been shouting. Please come and speak to Mrs Veeder or Miss Brown if you are concerned about shouting.

### **Behaviour**

- We are working carefully on our behaviour policy and we are proud to be a nurturing, inclusive school. We have challenging moments in every classroom but we are working hard on our approach and our policy.
- We have high expectations and consistent boundaries in school, but we are not planning to be 'tougher'. We have 'mend it meetings' to help a child to resolve and repair conflict.
- Bullying: If you feel that this is happening to your child, but please come and speak to us as we will always take it seriously. We rely on communication from parents to know what is going on. We help children to resolve issues and to move on in a positive way.
- When classes are evacuated: This happens occasionally. It's not safe for staff or other children to touch a child who is dysregulated. Instead, the class is quickly removed for a play and a member of staff will help the child to regulate. We have sought guidance on this to inform our behaviour policy. The evacuation usually lasts for 5 mins and we have a nurture space that we try to use.
- There is a general sense that there's been an increase in physical behaviour incidents. We have more children on the SEN register and more with SEMH needs. We use CPOMS to track behaviours and we are teaching the children about important boundaries during play.
- Behaviour is being monitored and discussed regularly by the governing body. If you'd like to visit school and see the classes during the school day, please book a time at reception.

### **Executive Headship**

- Parents have shared concern about Mrs Veeder's role as Executive Head and Miss Brown's capacity as Head of School, SENCO and EYFS Lead. We have very experienced teachers and we are a strong team. Mrs Veeder's new role has increased our budget, which should enable us to pay for a further class teacher next year.
- We have 4 trained Designated Safeguarding Leads in school, who are able to respond quickly and effectively to any incident or concern.
- The Executive Headship role remains as a standing item at every governors' meeting and the governors are carefully monitoring the impact (both positive and negative) of the role on the school, to ensure that the staff and children feel fully supported.

- All communication still goes to Mrs Veeder, but if parents want to see the Head when Mrs Veeder isn't there, please speak to Miss Brown.

**Parent events**

- Parents would like to be invited to more events in school and we will look at further opportunities during the school day.
- SCPA – we have tried so many different events, but we don't have enough parents coming. If they're not supported, we will just have online events. Xmas fayre had an excellent turn out, but quiz or bingo nights have less attendance. We have the summer fete coming up and hoping more parents will offer to help, even for 1 hour.