

16th September 2024

Dear parents

As part of our continual review of school the staff team have reflected on your feedback comments from the summer parent report slips. It is good to have supportive suggestions, as these add a parental voice to the ongoing progress we are making.

The following suggestions were made, and I have added a response from school. Thank you too for the positive comments which I shared in the end of year letter.

<u>Positives</u>	<u>Suggestions</u>	<u>School response</u>
Sporting events	More football at breaktimes	Hard court – playground too small for football with other children outside. Games and activities rota set up for lunchtimes as well as use of The Den for art club weekly
Sporting competitions	More maths homework – KS1	Homework priority given to reading and spelling but additional will be added to website as games and activities
Trips and educational visits	Weekly newsletter rather than monthly	Parents can use google calendar and texts as well as emails for updates – more information is shared monthly. Letters are emailed and put on parent section on the website. Parent Pay used for payments online. School will need to check emails and texts numbers from September 24 to ensure we have up to date information for messages
Outdoor learning		Extension of Forest schools to all classes in PM curriculum time
Understanding the needs of the individual child		Building on previous work – expand to friendship focus and restorative justice approach across school
Forest school sessions		Extension of Forest schools to all classes in PM curriculum time
Breakfast club prior to SATS		Will continue for 2024/5
Being welcomed into school as a new parent		

The nativity at Christmas		
School dinners		
School has a 'positive vibe'		
I couldn't list any improvements. All the hard work that all the staff are putting in is reflecting on the school. Mrs H you have turned the school around!		

Attendance

While we realise that there will be 'bugs' and illnesses, I am mindful that our school overall attendance dropped below the National target of 96% at the end of last year as set out in DFE and government guidance. Obviously, there are occasions when your child is not able to attend school due to illness or has an appointment which medically must be in school time. These need a letter of appointment shown to the school and the school office will need to be notified in advance. Please try to make dentist and optician check-up appointments etc out of school time whenever possible. The school holidays are the best time for this.

As you will have seen on the news, government guidance now stipulates fines and court prosecutions can now be used for term-time holidays. While our stance on this is not to fine parents, this is reviewed annually.

The children across school year groups last year lost over 70 days or 14 weeks of learning due to term time holidays!

Supporting your child's attendance guidance suggests:

- *create good routines for mornings at home so that your child can arrive punctually, and they are properly equipped; this will also mean your mornings can start calmly too*
- *make time to encourage and show interest. Chat to them about the things they have learnt, what friends they have made and even what they had for lunch! Remember children can be tired when coming out of school, so a short chat over a snack or later that evening may produce a better result than a long list of questions*
- *read all school communications/letters/newsletters and check class pages and websites for information.*
- *attend school open evenings and activities when you can*
- *check your child understands the homework and that it has been completed. Support them in completing homework by creating a calm space for them to work in and set specific times during the week when homework should be done*



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- *avoid absence from school wherever possible – try to make doctors and dental appointments out of school hours. Absence means your child will miss their academic studies and will also learn that education is not the main priority within the family. This can have a lifelong effect.*

We appreciate your support with attendance as always, and if you have any questions about this matter, please contact the school office.

Lockdown practice in school

We will be having a lockdown practice in school in the next few days. This is standard procedure and something we rehearse alongside our fire drills. The children will be spoken to today and the lockdown will be talked through for all children. Please can you ensure you speak to your child about this as we want to ensure the children feel confident about this and are not worried. Previous practices have been calmly carried out and the children have been extremely sensible about the practice. If you have any questions or concerns do not hesitate to contact school.

Kind regards
Mrs Hutchins
Head teacher