

22/5/24

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to thank the 37 parents who completed the parental survey. This gives us the views of a good amount of parents and carers to help us consider what we should prioritise next year in relation to parental engagement and communications.

The headlines from this survey are that:

- No child is unhappy at our school.
- 100% of families reported that they had always been able to speak with a member of staff about queries they have.
- No families are unhappy with the quality of education that their child receives.
- 95% of families are happy or very happy with our range of trips and enrichments (the other 5% were neither happy or unhappy).
- 97% of families feel involved in the school community.
- 97% of families believe that bullying is either not a concern or that it is dealt with well.
- Behaviour is rated as 4/5 in our school.
- 76% of families stated the school has high expectations of their child.
- 72% of families report that they are now engaging with the RKE sheets at home.

When we asked about communication, many of the suggestions to improve this area asked for things that we already have. Please can we ask you to check that you are receiving our emails as some people do not seem to have received the RKE sheets, teacher letters, trips and enrichment booklet or parent handbook. The things that are being queried in the survey are within these documents.

Most of the comments were thanking us for what is in place (eg: parents evenings, key things to ask your child about on the classroom doors, RKE sheets, teacher half termly letters, website pages, open classrooms and assemblies). There were some requests to increase the Tapestry notifications in EYFS and we will look into this.

We will continue to ensure that all of these are also available on our website but we agree with the majority of comments that the school does a lot to communicate what is happening and we do not want to increase this as this would cause confusion. If you have not yet done so, please consider downloading the school calendar to your phone.

Within the survey, we gave you the opportunity to make suggestions about various aspects of school life. We have summarised your queries alongside what we will do next. If more than

Headteacher: Mrs Jennifer Thornton

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Fernhurst Primary School,  
Haslemere Road, GU273EA

Email: [office@fernhurst.w-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:office@fernhurst.w-sussex.sch.uk)

Tel: 01428 653144

one family has placed the same query, we have added the number next to the comment.

You asked if we could:	We will:
list all apps that are needed at the start of the academic year.	ensure sure these are in the teacher letters as well as where we display them on the home learning page on the website.
ensure all entry doors are open in wet weather.	make sure that this is the case.
schedule classroom events with a gap to support working families.	aim to do this next academic year where possible. Please note that there are events where this is not possible due to organisational reasons.
offer clubs during the extra week of the October break	ensure that there is provision available.
reduce the emphasis on SATS in UKS2.	always ensure children are ready for national tests. Please be assured that we teach the curriculum and the tests assess this – we do not teach to the test and wellbeing is well considered.
give more notice about holiday clubs.	speak with CM Sports who provide this for the school so that they know you would like more notice.
share school development priorities with you.	continue to share this information on our website. Please look on the 'key information about Fernhurst' page in the parent section of the website.
have different apps for communication and home learning.	Not be increasing the apps that we have as there is already a wide range.
have more headings on the website to filter letters	not be able to do this at this time due to the design constraints on the website but the letters are ordered by date so all recent communications are at the top.
make Arbor more effective.	share the parent guide in the hopes that this is helpful. Arbor will listen to feedback so if you have specific challenges, please let them know.
add reminders about what is happening to the notice boards more frequently.	ask our admin team to do this.
include more details about upcoming events in the newsletter.	consider the best strategy moving forward. We reduced these communications following feedback in a previous survey as it was fed back that we were duplicating because we have already provided the trips and enrichment booklets and details on teacher half termly letters.

have more competitive sports.	share our programme for next year when it is finalised – there will be a competitive sports club which play against schools every three weeks in addition to the sports experiences and elite squad work that has started this term.
include specific clubs beyond the range we have offered this year (5 parents).	explore the options available for next academic year – we are already in discussions with a second forest school provision provider, a boxing and a roller skating company.

We had several open box questions where you were able to share your thoughts about the school. Thank you for the positive comments– these have been shared with staff but we would like to take the opportunity to share a sample of these messages with you below:

‘I have been really impressed with both X hard work in supporting X. It has not gone unnoticed and is massively appreciated. Thank you.’

‘I believe the school is providing a crucial role in building relationships within the school setting and community taking on all different viewpoints and ideas and the impact has been so positive keep it up.’

‘A lovely school, very happy to be part of it’ ‘The school is at very good standards’

‘All trips are a reasonable cost when I compare to my old school. Thank you for putting the work in to make it happen.’

‘This is a brilliant provision’ ‘I think the level of communication is fantastic’

‘It is a wonderful, nurturing and accepting place where the staff really care about the children's welfare and education’

‘I think communication is good newsletters are great for keeping up with events and achievements.’

‘I think it's amazing the amount of activities events planned and that makes a huge difference in the Community , there is something for everybody to take part in or do .’

Nurture, Explore, Achieve

Stay safe, Be Respectful and Always Try Your Best.



Please remember that the school office is open Monday to Friday 8:30-4:00 and you will not get a response from the school outside of these hours. The office receives high volumes of emails and aims to respond within two working days.

For full details, please refer to the full letter.

Kind regards,

Mrs Jennifer Thornton

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