



Coleham Primary School

For every child, an Excellent Education

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Headteacher: Ms C Jones

18th April 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

Many thanks to those of parents who completed our Parent Questionnaire at the end of last term, the results of which are attached at the end of this letter.

We have looked closely at the questionnaires and comments which we received (95 replies were received) and we have considered our response. For the most part, there was a very positive response, with many respondents expressing support for the school through their answers and comments given in the comments box.

In considering our reaction, we have added up the responses that were either “strongly agree” or “agree” and presented the information accordingly. Where the totals are over 90%, we are pleased, however where it is lower, we have discussed actions we need to take. For some questions, (e.g. “*The school deals effectively with any cases of bullying,*”) quite a high proportion of parents answered “don’t know,” we assume because they do not know of any cases of bullying and so we have not taken this as a negative issue.

I have therefore taken each question in turn, where the response has caused concern, and below I have hopefully provided some response, explanation and reassurance of our determination to improve:

5. *My child receives appropriate homework for their age and ability*

You may remember that last year, following on from parental feedback and from discussions with staff, we decided to change our homework policy and children have not been receiving formal weekly homework this academic year. Generally, we have received support from parents regarding this decision and less parents disagree with the above statement, as compared to last year’s results. However, 14.9% of those who responded did disagree, which was higher than we would like to see. I would therefore like to detail our reasoning for this decision.

Research shows that the impact of weekly homework is low and it is our belief that our children work very hard at school and they need to be resting and enjoying family time at home with their families in the evenings/at weekends. Homework can sometimes put pressure on family life and we wanted to reduce this pressure. We still expect our children to read every night and learn their times tables/number bonds.

We also continue to set holiday work in the form of projects to be completed at home, as we find that the children love completing these projects with parents at home and usually produce amazing work. If you would like to do some extra work at home with your child and need some ideas and support, we are happy to do and point you in the right direction. Optional homework has, and will continue to be, set for our Year 6 children, in the run up to the SATs, to prepare them for their statutory tests.

7. I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress

The number of parents who selected "disagree" to this question was higher than we would like (9.48%). As you may know, this year we increased the number of meetings that parents are invited to come along to with teachers. There are 2 formal parents evening and 2 separate informal sessions, which parents can come along to in order to look at their child's work and discuss progress. We have also introduced an extra transition meeting at the end of June, during which parents can meet their child's new class teacher. We also write a formal end of year report to all parents. In addition to the above, you are always welcome to make an extra appointment with your child's class teacher if you would like to discuss their progress or any other issues that you have. We have an open door policy at Coleham and welcome all parents into school to come and talk to us. We will, however, be looking at exactly what information we give to you at parents evenings. We will ensure that we are consistent across school and that the information presented is clear and useful.

In addition, some parents commented that the communication regarding key events could be improved. We take on board your comments regarding this and have tried hard this year to ensure that all relevant information is communicated out to parents in good time. A half-termly newsletter is still sent out, which contains all of the important diary dates and all letters and dates are posted onto our new website in the calendar section. If you would like a hard copy of any letters, please come to the school office.

In the comments box, we also received a number of comments about the quality of school dinners and the quality of food served at the breakfast and after school clubs. As you know, we have recently moved to a new provider for school meals and we will be seeking your views (and the children's views) about this change in due course. Over the summer term, we will be reviewing the quality of food served at the clubs to ensure that it is in line with our school meals. We will keep you updated in this area.

Finally, a number of parents praised the school's efforts to ensure that lessons are fun and inspiring. Some parents, however, called for more creativity. As you know, our main school value is creativity and we work tremendously hard to ensure that everything we do is exciting and creative in order to inspire our children. This year, we have increased the amount of time we spend learning outdoors and our new classroom in the conservation area is used frequently, as is the conservation area itself. We have also organised a D and T, multi-cultural Art and a Languages day and have invited workshops into school - including speakers during our Diversity Week - and we look forward to getting involved in the Belle Vue Arts Festival, once again, during the summer term. Creativity will continue to be a priority for us moving forward as we plan more themed days and exhibitions for you all to come along to after school.

I would like to thank you, once again, for your comments and suggestions on the Parent Questionnaire.

Yours sincerely,

Claire Jones

Claire Jones
Headteacher

Parent Questionnaire Responses 2018

95 respondents

Number on role: 420

| | | Agree | Disagree | Don't know |
|----|---|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1 | My child is happy at school. | 97.89% | 2.11% | 0% |
| 2 | My child feels safe at school. | 97.89% | 2.11% | 0% |
| 3 | My child is making good progress at this school. | 97.87% | 2.13% | 0% |
| 4 | My child is well taught at this school. | 98.94% | 1.06% | 0% |
| 5 | My child receives appropriate homework for their age and ability. | 81.91% | 14.9% | 3.19% |
| 7 | The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved | 89.47% | 4.21% | 6.32% |
| 8 | This school deals effectively with any cases of bullying | 52.63% | 5.26% | 42.11% |
| 9 | The school is well led and managed | 97.9% | 1.05% | 1.05% |
| 9 | The school responds well to any concerns I raise | 87.24% | 3.19% | 9.57% |
| 10 | I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress. | 90.52% | 9.48% | 0% |

THANKS FOR ALL THE RESPONSES, QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS!