



A very strange end to the term which we certainly weren't expecting! The first time in our teaching careers that we have had to close a school due to high winds. But the safety of our pupils and families must always come first and the decision made by our Trust - and then also by Somerset County Council - was certainly a sensible one. We hope you all stay safe inside today and that by this evening the winds will have abated somewhat.

We were going to attach the results from our parent questionnaires this week to the newsletter email, but as we are not in school today, the document will get sent out on our return. We had a total of 20 families responding, which is a significant decrease from last year so we will look at sending out another questionnaire towards the end of the summer term to capture the thoughts of parents who possibly didn't contribute this time. Many of the areas were extremely positive and we are really pleased that all parents who responded felt their child was taught well, that their children find learning interesting, that their child feels safe and that they would recommend the school to other parents.

There were four key areas that stood out for needing further work. These were the range of extra-curricular activities, homework, information about children's progress and awareness of the Governors. These are some of the steps we will be taking in order to address these:

Introduce a wider range of clubs that are available for more pupils

We have already increased the number for Term 4 and have received positive feedback about this. In the past there have been occasions when clubs have not run as we have not had enough uptake, but we will ensure that there is a greater variety moving forward, both run by external providers and school staff.

Review the homework policy

Homework is often a contentious issue for parents, with some parents wanting access to more home learning, while others want their children to spend their time at home on other activities that are not related to school. We will review this in a staff meeting next term and share our ideas with you.

Information about children's progress

We have found in other schools that as well as parents' evenings three times a year, offering drop in sessions can be useful for parents to keep abreast of their children's learning. We have parents' evenings scheduled for Term 4 and Term 6 and will offer a week of drop-ins during Term 5 - more details of this will follow nearer the time. We will also ensure that parents of any children whose learning or progress is not as expected will be contacted by their class teacher immediately rather than this being left for the parent consultation session.



Awareness of the role of the Governors

Now that restrictions have eased, our school Governors are on site more often, contributing and collaborating with the school staff to raise standards across the curriculum. We will introduce/re-introduce our Governors to you through the school newsletter and also ensure that they are more visible so that you can get to meet them and talk through school issues and ideas. We have some new members on the Governing Body who we know are very interested in getting involved in many matters at school.

Finally as we mentioned last week, there is a definite need to look at offering before-school provision. Almost half of the responses we received were interested in this and should many of you who didn't respond also want to use such a facility, then it is certainly worth trialling. We will draw up some plans and look at starting this provision after the Easter holidays.

We welcomed Miss Jess Henry to our school this week. She is a PGCE student who has joined for the next few months. She will mainly be based in Goldfinches, although has already spent a day and a half with Kingfishers. We look forward to working with her as she completes her teacher training this year.

We hope you all have a lovely break over the half term and look forward to seeing the children back in school on Monday 28th February.

Mrs Phillips

Mr Turull

Diary Dates for the Spring Term

EACH WEEK

Monday PM - Violin lesson for Swallow Class.
After school Culture Club

Tuesday AM - PE for children in Robins and Swallows with Mr Groves
PM - PE for children in Kingfishers and Goldfinches with Mr Groves
After school Sports Club with Mr Groves

Wednesday After school - Sunflower Club

Thursday PM - Swimming for Goldfinch Class and Group a from Starling Class
After school - Yoga Club

February

Mon 28th Start of Term 4

March

Fri 4th Dress Up for World Book Day