



GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER

July 2017 Edition

2016-17 - A Year of Change...

It's hard to believe we've already reached the end of another year at Charles Kingsley's School. For all sorts of reasons, it's certainly been a year of considerable change!

To some degree, that seems to be reflected in the responses to our annual survey of parents and carers...

We also wanted to share some end of year results with you.

2017 Parent Survey

Thank you to everyone who completed the survey this year. It continues to be a very important way of ensuring voices from all members of the school community are heard.

We had over 75 responses, which is a little lower than last year but nevertheless gives us a good base to analyse the results and understand key themes you want to raise with the Governing Body and school in general.

Parent Views

The Survey was based around the 'Parent View' questions, which OFSTED use in the event of an inspection. These give us a broad sense of how people think the school is doing.

Results Remain Positive but Reflect Changes in Leadership

Generally the results remain very strong with 83% or more of respondents agreeing that:

- Children feel happy and safe at school
- Children are making good progress
- Children are well looked-after
- Children are taught well
- They would recommend the school to others

This is however slightly down from last year's survey results and may be influenced, to some degree, by the changes in leadership that we have experienced over the last 12 months.

We can see this impact in the number who said they thought the school was well lead and managed, which dropped from 81% to 66%, and also in some of the general comments that were made.

Changes in leadership can often be problematic as people have different styles, views and ways of doing things and we recognise that it was less than ideal to have three interim Headteachers in a twelve month period, particularly just as Mrs Connelly was joining as our new Deputy Head Teacher too.

The good news is that we now have our permanent Headteacher back and the School and Governing Body are working hard to ensure that the school continues to be well managed and that these impacts are felt across the board.

Other Areas

Whilst the results remain strong, there were a couple of areas where we received a slightly greater percentage of negative responses. >> *Cont Page 2*

Parent Survey >> from Page 1

1. Pupil Behavior: whilst 78% of respondents felt the school ensures pupils are well behaved , 20% disagreed with this.

We would encourage parents to come and talk to their class teacher in the first instance and then arrange a meeting with the Headteacher if they have concerns about individual pupil behavior.

Whilst the need to maintain confidentiality means it may not always possible to share how staff are dealing with specific incidents of poor behavior, it is important that you know the school will be taking your comments seriously and ensuring that correct actions are taken to manage the situation.

While we would always encourage parents to seek to raise and resolve concerns with staff on an informal basis, it is also worth reading the Complaints Policy on the School website to see what options are available and how comments are dealt with in the event that you feel all other avenues have been exhausted. The Governing Body can only intervene in situations where the procedures set out in this Policy have been followed.

2. Homework: 77% of respondents felt their child(ren) received age-appropriate homework whereas 18% disagreed. Yet again this remains a feature of the response to surveys as we recognise that children and parents have differing views on how much homework should be set and how hard it should be.

Given this, the KS1 team have tried something different this year, with the introduction of 'Six Ways At Once', and once again we saw a range of comments about this style of homework in the feedback: some in favour, some not.

Teachers will continue to clarify expectations about home learning at the start of the academic year and the Governors will continue to review the role, purpose and appropriateness of homework at the Curriculum and Standards Committee.

Feedback is always welcome and helps the School and Governing Body take different views into account, so please do not wait for the next annual survey, if you have some thoughts about homework you would like to share.

Other themes coming through your feedback focused on communication:

1. Some parents feel that they do not receive enough information about their children's progress . We recognise that this may well have something to do with the removal of the old system of assessment ('Levels'), to the new assessment model, which is based around Age-Related Expectations. (If it's any consolation, most of the Governors preferred the old system of Levels too!)

This was also a theme coming out of last year's survey, but it is good to see that we have managed to move the dial on this over the last twelve months. Only 11% now think they do not receive valuable information about their child's progress versus 21% last year.

Nevertheless the Senior Leadership Team has committed to do more to explain how the new assessment model works and to ensure there is clear and effective communication about pupil progress. Ensuring clear reporting to parents has been a theme at Governor training events this year; clearly this is something all schools are wrestling with following the move to the new assessment system. >> Cont Page 3

Parent Survey >> from Page 2

Just as a reminder, our current formal model for communication on progress is based around two Pupil-Led Learning Reviews a year and the end of year School Report, with an option to meet and discuss any aspects of the report face-to-face.

We will ensure you have a clear view on your child's progress, their areas of strength, and also the areas for development which might be holding them back from achieving the next educational milestone, and which will therefore form the basis of their target focus areas in the next term.

However parents are also welcome to make appointments with class teachers at other times in the year to discuss progress or raise other concerns, and to e-mail teachers with specific questions or comments too.

Staff also communicate less formally via reading records and homework diaries, but if you think there might be other methods of communication that might help, please feed this back to the school.

2. Working parents: ensuring we do everything we possibly can to help working parents balance the challenges of doing their jobs and supporting their children in school.

This is something which we recognise has fallen by the wayside a little over the last twelve months, given all the changes.

We are committing to ensuring that parents are given as much notice as possible (ideally six weeks) of invitations to events or other requests for support in school, be it the need to fashion a costume together for a Learning Event, to get your child to the Cricket Club in the morning, or to come and see them received a well-earned Heart of the Community or STEP reward.

Any other concerns?

If you have any other concerns which you do not feel are reflected in this overview of survey results, or anything else you want to talk to the school about, please come and talk to your class teacher before following up with the Head Teacher if needed.

We strive to operate an open culture and really do value your help in ensuring that Charles Kingsley's School is an inspiring and caring environment, providing outstanding educational standards.

End of Year SATS Results

It is nice to end the year with some excellent SATS results in years 2 and 6.

KS1 2017 Results	Reading	Writing	Maths
CKS	86.7%	86.7%	80%
Hampshire	82.3%	73.9%	79.1%
National	75.6%	68.2%	75.1%

These results show the percentage of children attaining Expected +

KS2 Results

2017 Reading Results	Expected +	Greater Depth	Scaled Score
CKS	100%	35.5%	108.7
Hampshire	75.9%	28.8%	105.1
National	71.5%	24.5%	104.1

2017 Writing Results	Expected +	Greater Depth
CKS	93.5%	41.9%
Hampshire	80.1%	22.7%
National	76.4%	17.7%

End of Year SATS Results >> *from Page 3*

2017 Maths Results	Expected +	Greater Depth	Scaled Score
CKS	90.3%	35.5%	107.2
Hampshire	76.9%	23.3%	104.4
National	74.8%	22.5%	104.2

2017 GPS – Scaled Score (combined)	Overall	Expected +	Greater Depth
CKS	108.8	96.8	45.2
Hampshire	105.9	77.8	29.8
National	106	76.9	30.8

At KS1 and 2 children are assessed on Reading, Writing and Maths attainment, with these results being submitted and compared at both a national level as well with other schools in Hampshire.

You can see from the results that the children's achievements put them well above the national average and also above Hampshire averages.

We are also particularly proud of the level of 'Greater Depth' attainment and how this translates into the GPS - Scaled Score. (The Scaled Score is a calculation of the child's attainment against a sliding scale.) This shows as a school how we are supporting children in meeting these higher and challenging curriculum expectations.

We are delighted with these results and they are testament to the children's, parents' / carer's and teachers' commitment to making Charles Kingsley's School a successful learning environment.

And Finally.....(honest)

And so another year will soon be here, and a new group of children will be entering Cassatt for the very first time. We very much look forward to welcoming them into the School.

But of course there are also goodbyes to say too. We would like to wish all the very best to the Year 6s, as they move on and up into the next chapters of their lives. Indeed every year, we have to say goodbye to some families as their Charles Kingsley's journey comes to an end! This year we will be saying goodbye to seventeen CKS families!

And farewell too to Miss Hammond, Mr Cante, Mrs Sewell (again!), Mr Smithurst, and Mrs Monument as they move on to pastures new.

Finally, we would like to wish you and your families a very restful summer holiday.