

GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2022



Dear Parent/Carer,

As we come to the end of another busy academic year, we can pause and reflect on how far the school has come. Mrs Ashford, as you know, is retiring at the end of this academic year and I'm sure you will join us in thanking her for her 14 years of dedication and service to the school and our community.

Under her leadership the school has gone from strength to strength, the school was rated Good by Ofsted in 2019. She was instrumental in the further development of the outdoor learning areas around the school; believed strongly in the creative curriculum, ensuring a broad, balanced and engaging education for our children, allowing all to flourish and grow. Children think of themselves as artists, writers, scientists, historians, as they are taught to believe and achieve, we wonder how many will go on to become our future engineers, technicians, nurses, doctors, scientists and other worthwhile careers.

Mental wellbeing and nurturing have always been as important to her as academic performance, never more so than post pandemic. Mrs Ashford loved engaging with the children and would make the most of any opportunity to be in the classroom, with her love of the arts shining through and inspiring others. She ensured the children experienced music, art, sports and other outside activities, adopting a holistic approach to education, allowing all children to succeed and shine.

Mrs Ashford developed and led a strong team of dedicated staff, with the governors, parents and carers all working together in true, "Team Trimley" style ensuring the best for all children. She successfully navigated the school through the pandemic, helping to keep us all safe and well. Following and keeping abreast of the ever-changing rules and guidance, not an easy task at the best of times, but incredibly stressful as a leader in education. She helped us all transition as school life returns to 'normal', with school trips and visitors in, this summer term has been busier than ever.

Retirement is the end of one phase of life and the beginning of a new, exciting chapter. We are sure you will join us in wishing her well as she embarks on her new venture.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all who responded to our recent Parent/Carer Survey.

41% Responded.

Your many comments will be really helpful as we move onto the next academic year.

Here are a few of your responses to the question, what does the school do well?

Reading and the emphasis on being a good reader in a positive way.

Providing a nurturing and happy classroom environment.

Cater to the needs of individual children.

Very friendly and approachable teachers. Always happy to help and listen.

Providing a nurturing and happy classroom environment.

Helping with confidence and finding new ways of learning.

Promoting reading. Covid restrictions/policies very well handled.

Staffs dedication to the children is outstanding.

Helping with confidence and finding new ways of learning.

Schools policies on reading and extra after schooling is excellent.

Any concerns I have are quickly answered.

Children are nourished by various activities.

Teachers are compassionate, understanding and inclusive. They are willing to try new things and adapt teaching to find what benefits each individual child.

The after school Zoom maths sessions have been superb and a massive benefit to our child.

I'm very proud of this school for many years, my 21-year-old daughter was there and my younger daughter is so happy too. Thank you very much Mrs Ashford.

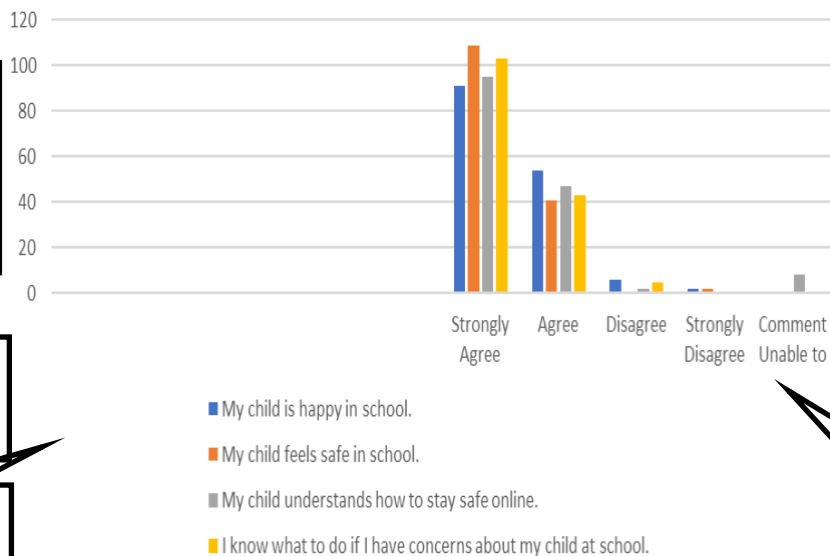
The pace at which children learn to read is very impressive and we still can't quite believe how much our son's reading has accelerated in a relatively short time.

Communication is good between parent and teacher. Friendly staff.

Love how informative tapestry is so I can then talk to my daughter in better detail about her day.

Broad curriculum with lots of fun learning opportunities. Lovely outdoor area and outside learning activities.

Parent/Carer Survey 2022



My children enjoy school.

Giving the opportunity to be leaders- the reading ambassador scheme.

Making my child feel secure and valued.

Supporting children of all abilities, working on their confidence and mental health.

They create a positive learning environment and a sense of school community. I find all of the staff friendly and approachable.

The school have been very supportive of my child's additional learning needs.

Supports the learning needs of all children and provides wonderful trips and activities throughout the year.

Creating a sense of community. Setting clear expectations for children.

Encouraging each child to gain confidence and independence.

Moving forward here are some of your comments on what we could improve on.

Communication: -

There was a 60-40 split with comments ranging from excellent communication to virtually no communication/really poor. This also varied widely within the same year group, with no obvious pattern for us to work on.

Please be aware that the bulk of communications do go out via parentmail, make sure the school has your up-to-date email contact details. When emailing class teachers try to do so before 8.30am, teachers tend to be busy with their class after this time. You can also email after school but staff will not usually respond out of hours but will respond the following morning. We did have one interesting comment re the number of apps you have to log onto, particularly in early years. Whilst we agree, unfortunately they all cover different aspects of your child's learning and there isn't an app out there that does it all (yet), we are always looking for improvements. Keep an eye out for newsletters, also sent out via parentmail, as these give forward notice of events for your diary. We have had a few events that were hurriedly arranged due to us being allowed to return normal activities/trips etc. We will endeavour to keep you well informed.

Sports and more outdoor learning: -

Many of you mention a wish to see an increase in P.E and inter school competition. You will be pleased to hear this has already begun. Our school recently hosted area sports, five other local schools attended and competed in athletic type events. Parent/carers will be able to come and cheer on their children as they take part in KS1 and KS2 sports days. You will be pleased to hear that from September all year groups, on rotation, will have the opportunity to take part in Forest School Activities. This is in addition to using the playground equipment on the field and top playground, these too, are used by all year groups in rotation.

Homework: -__

A few of you felt the amount of homework given is too great, feeling that children should be able to relax. Again, a tricky issue to balance and worth discussing. There was also mention of too much screen time, if you are concerned you are entitled to request a paper copy of the homework set.

Lunch Options were mentioned, looking for more variety, healthier and possibly packed lunch type options. These will be discussed with our provider.

A couple of you reported your children were having friendship issues, citing the possibility of bullying occurring, any form of bullying is taken seriously at this school, it is logged, reported to governors and acted upon. A lot of work is undertaken in school around healthy relationships and building children's confidence in dealing with, talking about and reporting issues. We must work on these together, do keep discussing with your child and their teacher. We will also of course speak to the year groups concerned.

More opportunities to come into school: -

Some commented that they would like to come into school for more face -to -face parent/teacher consultations and to view children's work. Again, as we return to some form of 'normality', after two years of disruption/restrictions during the pandemic, we have already taken cautious steps to inviting you in with open evenings, where parent/carers came in to view children's work. It was great to see so many children proudly sharing their work with their grown-ups. We also recently hosted a well -attended reading workshop for EYFS year 1 parent /carers. Years 3&4 show cased their learning to parents in the hall earlier in the summer term and the PTA summer fair was a success. Finally, to complete this term, Year 6 will be starring in their production, in front of their parent/ carers. It is hoped we can continue down the road to 'normality' as we go into the autumn term, when we can invite you in to share more of your children's learning.

Thank you once again for your comments, working together to get the best learning experience for our children.

Welcome to the new chair of Governors

My name is Robin Pattinson and I am the Chair of Governors at Trimley St Mary Primary School (appointed 2021). I welcome this opportunity to introduce myself.

I have recently retired (for the second time!). For much of my career I worked in the IT Department at the Port of Felixstowe and, after taking early retirement from that job I found myself taking up another role with the National Trust at Sutton Hoo. A complete change of career, but a very enjoyable one.

I have a long association with the school; I was a pupil here myself, my son also attended Trimley St Mary and my wife worked here as a Teaching Assistant for many years. Trimley St Mary Primary School is very special to me. I



Governors from left to right: -

Back row - Mr T Costello, Mr R Pattinson, Mr A Mortimer, Mrs L Jackson, Mrs D Garwood, Mrs C Scott

Front row - Mr M Murray, Mrs H Mackie, Mrs A Winterbone, Mrs G Jasper, Mrs C Davies

have been a Governor for some years now and I am proud to be associated with the school and to be part of "Team Trimley".

We have a strong, supportive Governing Body which focusses on maintaining the strategic direction of the school. It's a privilege to be Chair of Governors at this time; part of a devoted team, which includes the Governors, Staff and Senior Leadership Team, working hard to share their experience and expertise in helping to guide our school forward. Trimley St Mary Primary School is a wonderful place, and all of us who serve as Governors are immensely proud of the fantastic achievements of those attending and working here, and we would like to thank parents for their ongoing support of the school.

Best wishes

Robin

Robin Pattinson Chair of Governors

Although sad to see Mrs Ashford leave, we are delighted, as we are sure you will be, that Mrs Lloyd has accepted to take on the role of Acting Headteacher for the next term, until a formal appointment can be made, we hope to appoint our new Headteacher from January 2023.

Wishing you all a wonderful summer break, ready to return refreshed and excited to continue your child's learning journey in the Autumn.

Your school governors,

All working together we can 'believe and achieve'