

GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER SPRING 2024



Dear Parent/Carer,

We would like to wish you all a Happy New Year, as we get ready for a new and busy spring term. Before we move onto the new term, we are sure you will agree that festivities celebrated at school before the break were testament to the hard work and talents of our children and staff. The EYFS Christmas Cracker, KS1 nativity and the outside KS2 Christmas Carol Service had us all smiling in awe at our confident, happy children. All events were extremely well attended and demonstrated your continued support for the school community. We would like to extend our thanks to Mrs Lamb and Mr Murray (our Co-Headteachers), their dedicated team of staff, children, PTA and of course our parent/carers, for ensuring a brilliant and cheerful start to the festive period, it certainly wouldn't happen without superb teamwork, in true Team Trimley style.

As we move into 2024, we would like to thank all those who returned the parent/carer survey via parentmail, 233 of you responded, the highest response we've had to date!

We would like to share some of your comments on what we do well.

Make children feel happy and secure.

A happy environment for my child to grow. Communicates the importance of how to behave and treat others.

Really impressed with the increased visibility of the headteachers at the school gates welcoming pupils/parents.

We would like to share some of your comments on what we do well.

Having headteachers greet children and parent/carers in the morning to make sure everyone is safe and secure within the school community grounds.

Encouraging children to read and voice positive thoughts and opinions in class. Giving a child confidence to use their voice

Encouraging confidence and resilience

Teaches the children perseverance and respect for each other and themselves.

Quick response to parents' concerns, good communication.

Celebrates children's achievements. Delivers an interesting and engaging curriculum.

Brilliant at keeping us parents informed via tapestry and see-saw.

Wild Wednesdays and Forest Thursdays. Children thrive outside, especially younger children.

Offers lessons in an interesting and interactive way.

Make children feel special and valued.

Feeling of community within the school, every child comes out of school happy- I have never seen a sad child.

Excellent communication via parentmail and newsletters. Lovely reward system, WOW assembly, raffle tickets etc.

Inclusive of all children and providing everyone the same opportunities

It has taken us a bit of time to read through your many comments, both what we do well and things we could do better. As Governors we receive an anonymised version of the report and comments, any of your concerns will have been brought to the attention of the Senior Leadership Team. They will in turn act on your behalf, in one or two cases where the respondents have left their survey completely anonymised, we were unable to respond to you personally, but will of course take on board your comments. You can contact us by emailing governors@trimley.net

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

Communication: –

Again, there was a range of 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. Many commented on the good use of parentmail, tapestry and see-saw keeping them up-to-date with diary events and their child's learning experiences.

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. **We are also aware that after the summer term there were a few IT issues, with not all staff emails working as they should have, these should now be resolved.**

There was one comment requesting that all children should be taught Makaton, **I think you will agree the children confidently sang and signed their way through their Christmas songs in KS1. KS1 children in particular often sign in literacy when they are building up a story board as a class or learning a new story. We agree it is good for children to master all different forms of communication.**

Sports, clubs, and more outdoor learning: -

Some comments were very supportive of our after-school provision, a few parents would like to see more sports clubs and more outdoor learning. A few also asked if it was possible to run after school clubs that were not sport orientated. **All fair comments, clubs other than those run by Ipswich Town are dependent on staff volunteering their time, tricky in these busy time pressured days.**

There were lots of very supportive comments regarding outdoor learning and how much their children enjoyed 'Wild Wednesdays/Forest Thursdays. **Staff also enjoy these sessions and comment on how the children thrive, build their confidence, independence, and resilience.**

Homework

Many mixed comments with the majority being positive.

Apps need to be condensed.

Remember, parents work too, sometimes too much pressure to keep up to date, if we forget it's reflected on the child

Homework requirements and facilities to record their work online is good. The homework grids are accessible and makes homework easy to plan ahead depending on whether we have a busy weekend or not.

Homework options to complete is a great way to spend time with the children.

Homework needs to be set clearer; I find myself checking through all the apps to make sure we don't miss anything.

Whilst I agree there needs to be a balance, for year 6, has gone too far the other way? Will they be ready for the increase at high school?

Other Issues: -

A few of you have commented on concerns regarding the congestion around EYFS gate at drop off and pick up times. **We are currently looking into putting in a further gate on the wider, marked playground side, of the blue EYFS fence. This will hopefully ease some of the congestion.**

We hope you can see that by working together Headteachers, staff, governors, parents, and carers; in fact, the whole school community, we can work together towards a shared goal, to provide a high-quality education, ensuring everyone can flourish and achieve their best.

We look forward to seeing all that can be achieved this year.

We still currently have a vacancy for a parent governor. If you would like to know more, please either contact the office, office@trimley.net or speak to one of the Co- Headteachers. (Mrs Lamb or Mr Murray).

**Together we can believe and achieve,
Yours sincerely,
Mrs Carolyn Scott
(Chair of Trimley St Mary Governors)**