

LEYBOURNE SS PETER & PAUL C E PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Dear Parents,

Thank you to those of you who took the time to complete the recent Communication Questionnaire. It was really important for us to find out your views on a number of issues.

Whilst I obviously cannot address each individual comment or response in detail here, I am happy to meet individually with any parent who wishes to discuss the Questionnaire in further detail.

It was lovely to read that our Office Staff are “always happy to help and very welcoming” and that many of you appreciate the efforts of the teaching staff to keep you informed as to your child’s progress and how you can support their learning at home. Some of you would like more information about how to do this, particularly in KS2.

To this end, KS2 teachers will be sending home short newsletters each week, recapping what has been taught in class and giving suggestions of ways in which you can support your child at home. In addition the termly plan (which is published on the school website) will also be sent home in hard copy, to give you an easy reference guide to what your child will be learning each term.

Some parents expressed a wish for longer consultations appointments. Unfortunately this simply is not possible. We do have to consider our duty of care to the staff – we cannot reasonably expect them to teach the children well if they have had 15 hours of Parent Consultations after school over the course of a week. Similarly, we will not start evening meetings at 8 pm for this reason. For some staff a two hour meeting that started at 8 pm would involve them getting home at around 11 pm – simply too late for them to rest before teaching again the following day.

However, we do appreciate that some of you would like more opportunities to find out how your child is getting on. Therefore, in addition to the consultations offered in Terms 2 and 4, and the Report sent home in Term 6, we shall be inviting parents into school for an informal look at their children’s work in Terms 1, 3 and 5. Whilst these evenings will not be individual consultations, they will give you a chance to look at your child’s work and to see how they are getting on and what they need to work on next. Obviously if you

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have any concerns or queries, at any time and not just following these 'Book Viewing' Evenings, you are always welcome to make an appointment with your child's class teacher.

Many of you said that you were comfortable to approach the school, and knew who to contact if you had a concern. However, some parents said that it took time as 'new parents' to the school to feel confident to approach the school, so we will increase the opportunities we offer new parents to get to know us. We will also provide more information to parents about how you can support us – not just through the PTFA or supporting the school financially.

Some parents expressed a wish to “challenge and hold the school to account.” This is the role of the Governing Body (a role they fulfil extremely effectively, I must say!), rather than the parent body. If any parent wishes to discuss a specific issue with me, I am always happy to arrange an individual appointment. I cannot promise to change my mind, or to alter a decision that has been made, but I will talk to you about why and how a particular decision was taken.

One or two of you would like to be fully involved in making decisions regarding the running of the School. Whilst this is not possible, or indeed appropriate, I would like to have representation from parents on a range of issues and am therefore looking to establish a Parents' Forum. I shall be writing to you about this separately to give you more information about how it would operate, topics we could cover etc.

We are aware that some of you have stopped using the school website, feeling that it is difficult to navigate and that some information on it is out of date. I am very pleased to tell you that we are currently upgrading our website, with a view to unveiling the new site later this month. I look forward to hearing your views on the new site later in the year.

I hope that this has addressed some of the issues raised by the Questionnaire. I shall refer to the Questionnaire throughout the remainder of the year as we seek to further improve the quality and clarity of our communication with you. We will continue to send regular (although not necessarily weekly!) Bulletins to keep you informed as to school events – and I will try not to mention car parking too often

Kind regards,

Tina Holditch
Headteacher

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