



All Saints C.E. Primary School

-- Newsletter 22nd July 2010 --



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Having reached the end of a very successful school year for so many of our learners, I would like to wish all of our families a happy and safe summer holiday. In particular I would like to wish children leaving All Saints' for different schools every future success.

We return to school on Wednesday 8th September for the start of the Autumn Term.

Parent Survey

Towards the end of last academic year, many of you completed a 'Parent Survey.' We have spent time over the last year scrutinising your feedback and working on a small number of statements that came up as areas for us to work on. We thought that you would appreciate the following information about how we have acted on your feedback.

The majority of statements were very positively responded to – by that we mean a response of 70% or higher. The average response showing an overall strength was 85% for the following statements:

- Staff explain how I can help my child at home
- I feel comfortable about approaching school
- The school is welcoming
- The school encourages parental involvement
- I am kept well informed
- My child is making good progress
- Teaching is good
- Staff expect my child to work hard and become independent
- There is a good range of activities
- The school provided appropriate homework
- School teaches children to respect people from different backgrounds
- The school gives my child opportunities to make positive contributions to the school
- Staff treat my child fairly
- Children behave well
- School helps children to develop positive relationships with teachers and peers
- My child is not bullied or harassed
- Arrangements for my child to settle in were good
- School is clean, tidy and safe
- My child is taught to deal with risks
- School encourages my child to take regular exercise
- School encourages my child to eat and drink healthily
- My child likes school
- The school is well led and managed
- The school is good and I am proud my children attend it

We have picked out the following three areas for further improvement:

1. The school seeks the view of parents and takes account of their suggestions

Here's what we are doing:

- Acting on this survey!
- Held coffee mornings across the school which gave opportunities to talk informally with parents. The main area that came up as a subject where parents would like support in helping their children was Maths. We plan to hold workshops for parents next year to share strategies to address this.

- Learning Journals and Planners are used effectively as a means for parents to communicate daily and/or weekly with teachers about any aspect of school life.
Parents were given the opportunity to respond to their child/children's reports.

2. The school gives my child opportunities to make positive contributions to the community outside school

Here's what we are doing:

- We formed a Science Club with Reception and Year 6 children to support the transition process at Stepping Stones.
- Many children worked in groups to raise money for the Haiti appeal.
- Children have worked with local people over the year to grow fruit, flowers and vegetables which have really enhanced the school grounds. We took part in Open Gardens where we opened the school grounds to the local community, and raised money in the process.
- We took part in 'Waitrose Community Matters' and raised £250 which will be used for a community based project. This will be discussed with the School Council.
- Next year we plan to link with a school in a contrasting locality to enhance our R.E curriculum. We hope to share ideas about culture, ethos and beliefs, and learn from each other.

3. The school asks my child for their views about important things in school, then values and acts on them

Here's what we are doing:

- The School Council have met termly and had significant input about playground equipment, Year 6 lunchtime jobs, the reintroduction and the improvement of the 'Golden Table' to name but a few. For September we plan to introduce 'playground crazes' as a direct result of these meetings. We plan to review our 'Rewards and Consequences' with a view to refreshing our systems, based on the children's input. We also plan to ask children about clubs which currently run, to make sure we are addressing the range of needs and interests amongst the children.
- We plan to talk to the children about aspects of the 'Pupil Survey' which children also took part in last year. The most significant area here was about behaviour and its impact on learning. This will be addressed as we review our Rewards and Consequences policy.

We hope that this information has been useful. Thank you for your feedback which we value highly. Be assured of our continuous efforts to improve the quality of your child's education and overall experience at school.

A Letter to All Parents from Our Chair of Governors:

Dear Colleagues

You will all have read in the national press that the new government has changed the policy on academy schools and that now all schools which have been rated as 'outstanding' will be given an early opportunity to have academy status.

The Governors at All Saints' have been gathering information about what academy status would mean for school. We have had a briefing from Staffordshire County Council and one from the Diocesan Board of Education. However, it seems that new information is appearing on the DfEE website almost daily and some important areas are still lacking clarity.

I know that colleagues at John Taylor High School have already decided to seek academy status.

Given the importance of this, the Governors will not be rushed into making a decision until they have all the information they need.

Before reaching a decision we shall consult with all key stakeholders: most especially with parents and with staff.

We plan to carry out this consultation after we return to school in September, by which time we hope to be much better informed.

Kind Regards
Mrs S Durrant
Chair of Governors.

