



Alehousewells School Report on Parent Feedback from session 2018-2019 Two Stars and a Wish

September 2019

Thank you to all parents and carers who took the time to complete the feedback sheets in May/June 2019. Parents and carers were asked to identify two areas that were good about the school and give each a star. Parents and carers were also asked to identify one area for improvement to identify as a wish. This is a summary of the comments submitted by parents and carers. There were 7 responses from 103 families. (Staff and pupils also completed this exercise separately).

Feedback given (Stars)

School Ethos

- *The internal school community: friendships/respect between all age groups is great to see.*
- *Appears to be very well and efficiently run. Pupils seem to have a lot of respect for the staff.*
- *The open-plan friendly environment with approachable staff.*
- *Encouraging children to play with others at the Friendship stop.*

School Curriculum and Resources

- *Impressed at how well standards have been kept up, despite increasing budgetary pressures.*
- *I like PE and Playleaders*
- *Maths is at the right level for everyone (hard but not too hard)*
- *The teachers explain everything and are very helpful.*
- *The environment at our school is very clean and appropriate.*
- *Outdoor space.*
- *Fundraising and team effort for new equipment to benefit all.*
- *As many activities outdoors in nice weather which the children enjoy.*
- *Activities throughout the year eg Panto, local Church services, trips etc.*
- *The large playground for the pupils to have fun and exercise.*

Home/School Links

- *I have found that the communication including via newsletters and Seesaw excellent. I feel that I am really informed about what is going on daily and promptly when there are any cancellations at the last minute.*
- *Communication eg Newsletters and Seesaw*

Things to Work on (Wishes)

School Curriculum and Resources

- *Get new balls for playing Dodgeball please.*
- *A school choir. A school band. A school dance troupe. A school vegetable/fruit garden.*

Home/School links

- *Communication. Standardise, sort out- just make sure that all parents are receiving the same information.*
- *I wish there were no Passports so if you get an amber, you just get time off Excellence time.*
- *The Parents' evening appointments; It would be useful to know what to expect in advance. The time allocation meant that only one matter was discussed and I would have loved to hear more overall feedback about performance in all areas. I appreciate there are a lot of parents to meet with, however, and the school report in addition.*
- *Be more considerate to children's jackets etc that have been left in the playground. Numerous times I have seen them just thrown to the side when it has been raining. Maybe a collection box rather than them being trampled on.*
- *Could Alehousewells consider changing to red polo shirts instead of white? That way, everyone is in school colours, with or without a jumper on (and they are easier to wash!)*

Things we will try to do as a result of this exercise:

1. More than £2500 was raised from our Challenge 500 event in March and this, along with £1500 from the Parent Council, was spent on lots of new PE equipment. Balls suitable for Dodge ball were among the items purchased.
2. Mrs Hendrick, Pupil Support Worker, has now started a lunchtime singing club on a Friday for P4-7, with a view to forming a Choir that could perform at various events in the future. As for a School band and a School dance troupe, we need a keen adult(s) to volunteer to run these clubs. If you feel that you could offer some time for these, or any other clubs, I would be delighted to hear from you. The Nursery currently has some vegetables and fruit growing in their garden and in tubs. Our Eco group (Acorns) would be the ideal group to drive this great initiative forward as well.
3. We do try very hard to make sure that all parents receive the same information. Ideally, we would like if all parents could sign up to Xpressions as this sends all information free to parents. When we use Xpressions, it tries to send the information by Xpressions first, email next and finally by text. This might explain why some parents receive the same information in a different way sometimes. Texting costs us 4p per text per family each time and printing letters costs 0.5p per print, as well as the cost of the paper. Emails are instantly received but paper copies can get left in trays or school bags or even lost. So for all these reasons, sending information electronically is the best option.
4. Passports are a means of communicating how well each child in P4-7 has done each week, so without them, not all parents would necessarily get this information. We are aware that parents value this opportunity to praise their children for a job well done each week so feel it is vital that we continue to send home the Passports.
5. I will try to explain Parents' evening appointments better in the letter that goes home, so that new parents know what to expect. Unfortunately, we can only allocate 10 minutes per child but are more than happy to meet with parents at another time out with Parents' evening. Please just speak to the class teacher or the Office to arrange another appointment. There is a Parents' evening in October and again in March. A written report is issued annually in March also.

6. It is the children's responsibility to remember to bring their jackets and jumpers back inside after playtime and lunchtime. They are usually draped over the railings but staff don't always bring them in at the end of the day as we hope that the pupils will pick them up later when they are out playing. Often, items are not named though which makes it difficult to reunite them with their owners.

7. Red polo shirts are a good idea. You will now find them available to buy on the Above all designs website.

Many thanks to those who took the time to provide us with some feedback. We have taken these comments on board and will endeavour to improve upon these aspects this session.

Carol Hughes
Head Teacher

September 2019

