

Information in response to parent/carer questionnaire summer 2015

Thank you for your responses to last term's parent questionnaire. We hope the following information is useful. Our school is working hard to improve. Thank you to those parents who have given us encouraging and positive feedback and are proud of our school!

The Parent Council collated all the responses during this term's meeting on 24/09/15. Here are the most frequently occurring questions along with answers/information that we hope you will find useful.

Things we have been doing since spring 2014:

Can we have longer to talk to teachers about our child's progress and targets? When can we see our child's work? What about working parents?

For over four years Knighton Primary has promoted an 'Open Door' policy to parents. This means that at any time during the year parents can make a mutually acceptable appointment to meet with a member of staff by contacting the school office. This policy is promoted regularly through newsletters and is on the sheet that every parent/carer signs at the end of a parent/carer meeting.

Timetabled opportunities to see work/talk to teachers continue to be as follows: three (termly) class visits following class assemblies and two parent/carer meetings.

Can all parents help in school?

All parents/carers are very welcome to come and work with us, as long as they are happy to complete a DBS check and sign a school agreement. Newsletters already regularly reinforce this message; everyone is welcome! There is no such thing as 'a select group of parents' who are asked to help before others; class teachers and pupils are just happy to have all the help they can get! However, parents/carers do have to tell us if they are interested in getting involved as not even Ms Hamer can read minds yet!

Can the school put on more events for parents and the community?

The new Friends of School team are desperate for new members and help with their planned social events. If the parents/carers who asked this question could get involved (many meetings are in the evening) we could solve two problems at once! Please contact Rachael Davies for more details.

Can we know more about incidents at breaktime/lunchtime?

We've been running our updated 'bump' policy now for over a year, as agreed by the Parent Council. All injuries are recorded and dealt with. Any injuries that are moderate or worse are recorded and include a phone-call home. The Parent Council decided that minor injuries should not need a phone call home. We are trying to upload the most recent update of the 'bump flow chart' to our website. Technical issues should be sorted out by the Local Authority IT team by the start of next half term, so have a look at the website then for more details. Contact the office for a hard copy if you think it would be helpful to you.

What is the school's bullying policy? Are all staff aware of it?

Bullying is defined as deliberately hurtful behaviour repeated over time. There is always an imbalance of power between the bully and the bullied; it is not a confrontation between equals. For over a year, our 'Guardian Angels' scheme has been shown to be very effective in dealing with friendship difficulties as well as bullying and all staff and pupils are very aware of it and how it works.

The Guardian Angel process starts by listening to the worries and points of view of all the children involved in an incident. This vital opportunity for all sides to be heard is recorded by the teacher.

If the issue appears to involve bullying, parents are contacted.

Following a first meeting, our records show that nearly all groups decide that the problem is a friendship issue. The children come up with a plan, recorded by the teacher, to solve the problem in a practical way, such as deciding how the group will get together at playtimes. Two further meetings record progress or further problems. After a third meeting, if the children decide that the problem has not been resolved; parents/carers are contacted and involved in the process. When the whole group decides that it has successfully solved a problem, they can be presented with a 'Guardian Angel' certificate.

Both the Behaviour Policy and the Anti-Bullying Policy are on our website. They are due to be updated this term and will then contain more detailed information about 'Guardian Angels'.

How do staff help children to understand the behaviour policy?

At the start of every year each class signs up to the school's behaviour policy. This policy, which is set out clearly on the display board opposite the office, is clear and simple and easily understood by the children. All staff have followed 'Incredible Years' training, widely recognised as one of the most effective behaviour

management system available. This means that all the staff have clear, shared guidelines, focussing on: praise, encouragement, rewards, celebrations and clear rules for all our pupils. Consequences are clear and shared. Last term we hosted an Incredible Years course for parents. Please let the office know if you are interested in getting involved in any future courses. More information can be found on their website www.incredibleyears.com.

How do teachers record progress in reading?

The reading record book that comes home with your child is only one of the ways in which reading is recorded. Reading progress and next steps are recorded during our regular guided reading sessions. Please make an appointment with your child's teacher for more information.

How can working parents/carers be more involved in school?

The majority of school life for children takes place between 8.50am and 3.15pm, however:

Parents/carers took advantage of our school's 'open door' policy and arranged mutually convenient times to come and talk to staff throughout the year: helping working parents/carers to be involved in school life.

Parents/carers attended training to help develop their child's reading skills: these took place in the school day, after school and during the early evening to help working parents/carers attend.

Most parents/carers attended our twice yearly Parents' Evening: these took place after school and during the early evening to help working parents/carers attend.

All pupils took part in amazing Christmas performances: these took place in school time and during the early evening to help working parents/carers attend. Some parents have voiced concern that the later performance times are too late for younger children: a dilemma!

Our talented musicians invited parents/carers in for a Music Celebration assembly. They performed again in the evening at the Community Carol Concert so that working parents/carers could be involved.

Are all children recognised for good behaviour?

Staff work hard to praise good work and behaviour in all children including: certificates, golden time and daily positive feedback in marking. We enjoy seeing parents/carers at our certificate reward assemblies every other week and in class after class assemblies, celebrating our children's work together.

Things we already do but need to review:

Could there be more notice of dressing-up days and more advanced notice of costs of trips?

Last year the School Council selected five charities to support, and planned related dressing-up days. This year we intend to stick firmly to the School Council plan; we hope that all parents can respect the children's decisions. For other dressing up days, linked to the curriculum, we aim to give at least a week's notice.

This term's Parent Council meeting discussed the issue of projected trip costs across the year, allowing us to advise parents in advance. Last year staff found it difficult to stick to plans when new opportunities for trips arose mid-year or when planned events changed. Friends of School will look at the list in order to consider how trips can be subsidised fairly across the school.

Can we have more trips, church visits and sporting events?

In November you will receive the latest 'Governors Report to Parents'. This document lists the wide range and large number of trips and events that enhanced our children's learning last year.

Our school has a duty to all our children and their families; we must consider the costs involved and make sure there is a balance between sport, music, links with the church etc

Walks around Knighton and outdoor classroom activities are used regularly to develop learning in different ways. Every week the 'Open the Book' team, drawn from local church communities, come to present bible stories in exciting, dramatic, ways.

This term, Mr Painter has further developed links with cluster schools to increase opportunities for after school sporting events; more details to follow. Our specialist sports coaches provide all our children with expert support and run weekly clubs for the older children.

Remember: Please check your child's bag regularly in case we have sent out information or newsletters. If you would like to receive newsletters by email, please let the office know. The newsletters and prospectus are also available from the school office and on the school website. Sarah is looking into the possibility of a "closed" Facebook page. Knighton Primary continues to follow an 'Open Door' policy to parents/carers. This means that at any time during the year parents can make a mutually acceptable appointment to meet with a member of staff by contacting the school office.