



Saltford
CofE Primary School

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Headteacher: Dawn Sage
Co-Chairs of Governors: Megan Jackson and Richard Rowland

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Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you so much to those of you who returned your annual questionnaires last term. We had 141 responses. This information, along with informal feedback we receive and further reflections as a whole staff will help us constantly improve what we can offer to the children and our community.

Of course, there are always areas we can improve. However, it is important we also recognise and celebrate our strengths and achievements from recent surveys. There were so many positive and constructive comments made – thank you. Positive comments and themes included:

Saltford treats each child as an individual
Caring ethos

Exceptional enrichment opportunities
Extra- curricular activities
PTA fundraising

Teachers and reception staff are friendly, helpful and knowledgeable
Teaching is of a high standard
Good communication

Happy, safe and nurturing environment. No tolerance for bad behaviour
Excellent SENCo support
School promotes good health

Great at making children feel part of the community
Involvement in community links events and links with other schools

Strong leadership and ethos
The buildings and grounds are terrific



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www.wellswaymat.com

As well as the strengths, there were areas where parents/carers felt the school needs to consider further. The areas raised overall were...

AREAS TO DEVELOP	MAIN ACTIONS SO FAR...
<p>Homework / Home learning</p> <p>(Also “the school strikes the right balance between providing a broad range of enrichment opportunities and being mindful of financial costs to parents.” (5 parents were not positive about this statement).</p>	<p>We believe Home Learning plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment. However, we also acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child's growth and development. Some of the actions we have taken so far include:</p> <p>The class letters received at the start of term and the class website outlined homework expectations, and each year group will ensure this is clear for parents.</p> <p>The curriculum review was carried out in May 2018. Our curriculum is based on a creative and thematic approach to learning. Each topic provides a rich menu of exciting and motivating learning activities that make links between all aspects of our children’s learning. Some homework tasks are linked to these topics.</p> <p>Children who carry out great homework are celebrated and we regularly share their work in celebration assemblies.</p> <p>Some parents would prefer there to be more homework linked to maths, spelling and reading. We pay for children to access TT Rock Stars so that they can practise their times tables. We have also established a new link with software called Spelling Shed which we will use to support the children’s home learning – details coming home shortly.</p> <p>This year, recognising that a greater number of reading books were needed for each level, we have invested £10,000 in new books so that children have a greater range of choice.</p> <p>In the class letters we have made sure we have flagged any cost implications for the academic year. We aim to ensure best value for visits and stay local to bring down the costs We are able to offer financial assistance towards the cost of visits or camps for those students in receipt of Pupil Premium. We also set up payments on the School Gateway so that smaller payments can be made towards any visits or visitors etc. We also limit the number of themed or dress up days to limit costs, and ensure we offer guidance on low cost alternatives for the days we do have. If you have any concerns about the costs incurred by school visits do contact the Headteacher.</p> <p>Next steps: We have given every child a Reading diary so that parents/ carers can record reading taking place at home every day. We are in the process of moving over to planners for children from year one to year six which will replace these diaries.</p>

Behaviour and Anti-Bullying approach
(5 parents made comments about behaviour of the children. 6 parents made comments about our bullying procedures).

The new Positive Behaviour Policy September 2018 can be found [here](#). All staff and children (through the newly elected School Council) will ensure this is implemented consistently. The levels of behaviour poster [here](#) will support consistency across the school. The school has purchased a piece of software called CPOMs which will log all behaviour classed as Levels 3 to 5 and record next steps to aid communication. We have clarified at which point within our levels of behaviour parents are informed.

Please note – avoid listening to hearsay – if you have any concerns always contact the class teacher or Headteacher. We keep a detailed behaviour log and are always happy to talk this through with you.

The new Anti- Bullying draft Policy September 2018 can be found [here](#). All staff and children (through the newly elected School Council) will ensure this is implemented consistently. Children discuss and will sign as a class the new Anti-Bullying Promise (page six of the Policy) at the start of each academic year, pledging as individuals to work together to show respect and kindness to others

National Anti-Bullying week will be held during the week beginning 12th November and will promote the message 'choose respect' and celebrate our school community.

Children are regularly invited to discuss and reflect on the theme of difference and to view this as a positive aspect of life through assemblies, PSHE lessons and class circle times.

All incidents of reported bullying are investigated and actions put in place to ensure that situations are dealt with promptly and effectively. The school has purchased a new piece of software called CPOMs to enable effective logging and sharing information with regards to any alleged bullying incidents.

We need to work on a shared understanding of what constitutes bullying with both parents and children - the new STOP poster (see page 5 of the policy) has been introduced to children this year and will hopefully add clarity to this.

*Several Times On Purpose
Start Telling Other People
Stand up to the Bully/ Take appropriate action/ Open Up/ Protect yourself and help others.*

Please note that in some of the year groups where we had comments – we have had not had flagged with the school any concern about bullying or behaviour. If we don't know about it we can't act on it – always bring your concerns to the class teacher or the Head teacher.

Communication and supporting your child.

I feel welcome when I come into school (10 parents were not positive about this statement.)

We continue to communicate in a range of different ways so that you can hear as much as possible about the life and activities of Saltford School – see Communication Summary [here](#). It is tricky to get the balance – some parents request more information, others are finding there is already too much shared. We share information in a range of different ways including school gateway, email, twitter, the website and hard copy etc. We will take on board any comments made with regards to the communications at school. You can also support us by noting important dates in your diary – especially deadlines for payment (we have a section on the newsletter too called letters sent and payments due). It is very time consuming to contact parents/carers for dinner money payments etc – we all need to do our bit and work together.

We aim to respond to queries as quickly as possible and the Headteacher will always make herself available should her advice / support be needed. **We have restructured the office roles and responsibilities so that Mrs Rich (new member of staff) has the opportunity to focus on her role on the front desk and address queries as quickly as possible.** Please be mindful though that we are a large school. Encouraging your children to build their independence to remember to bring their kit etc on the correct day is very helpful and takes pressure off the school office.

We have offered a range of workshops, meetings and other events for parents throughout the year which are detailed a year in advance – see [diary dates for parents](#).

We have an [online system](#) for booking consultation evenings to ensure you can book a slot with the teacher and enabled parents to have more time looking at their children's work and discussing their child's progress.

Information about progress, attainment and attendance is shared with parents/ carers on consultation evenings as well as on the annual report.

<p>IN THE SURVEY YOU SAID... (number of parents who said it below.)</p>	<p>WE DID...</p>
<p>School dinners are of a good standard for taste and nutrition. (28 parents were not positive about this statement.)</p>	<p>Due to the size of our Hall and the 434 children we need to accommodate we do not currently have the space during lunchtimes to offer the opportunity for parents to come in to taste the food for yourself. However, we are working on opportunities to offer this at other times should you wish to do this.</p> <p>We have a new catering company called Zest – click here to read their approach to our menu and the menu itself. They came along to meet our new parents whilst their children were at story time – which gave parents an opportunity to do some tastings and talk to our school cook about the menu etc. Zest also came along twice to meet our school council – discuss the new menu and do some tastings with them.</p> <p>Our new catering provider is open to suggestions and we have raised with them comments from parents about the sugar content in the meals and possible next steps. The School Council will be continuing their work on the “Sugar Smart” project also. We will keep working to improve this area.</p>
<p>It would be really useful to know exactly what they’re doing in class and when so that we can support at home and receive more information about my child’s progress. (5 parents were not positive about this statement.)</p>	<p>Every year group holds either wow workshops or access mornings twice a year (dates are on the school diary) so you can visit the classrooms during the school day and look through work with your child. Appointments with the class teacher can be made to do this outside the school day if you are working.</p> <p>We offer a range of workshops, meetings and other events for parents throughout the year which are detailed a year in advance – see diary dates for parents.</p> <p>In addition sessions were delivered and are planned again this academic in year groups to provide ongoing information about how we teach basic skills: EYFS Literacy and Maths workshops, welcome to Key Stage Two meeting etc.</p> <p>We have held meetings about end of key stage assessments (Y2 & Y6 SATs) as well as the Y1 phonics workshops – we will run these again and broaden the content to include more general information to help you support your child.</p> <p>We publicise information about the curriculum on our website and regularly celebrate learning on our Twitter feed.</p> <p>We are exploring other workshop ideas including information about our new maths scheme and resources. We are also developing more class assemblies with the idea that we can open these up to the class parents so celebrating some of the excellent achievements taking place across the school.</p>

<p>Comments made about the children that are always being chosen.</p>	<p>We are a large primary school (434 pupils) and our aim is to offer opportunities to as many children as possible. Our groups such as equalities team, green team and travel ambassadors are open to all volunteers. School Council, House Captains and Digital Leaders are elected roles.</p> <p>We are very mindful that many of our parents now work – so that if there are opportunities at school it is important to do “names out of a hat” rather than first come first served.</p> <p>Please note that if we are using an external provider – the tennis lottery funded opportunity was a case in point – they may well due to time constraints operate a first come first served system.</p> <p>We always make sure we keep records of children who are chosen in our celebration assemblies so that over the academic year all children will be chosen.</p> <p>We have also set up a record system for sporting opportunities so that we can keep track of who takes part etc. On the topic of teams and trials we do aim to run trials when we feel they are necessary. However, we don’t always have the time, space and staff to do this for every event. With regards to the swimming gala for instance – Mr Lye and his assistant teach the children to swim on a weekly basis. He is well placed to choose a team as opposed to carrying out a trial which we would have to pay him to do out of an already stretched budget. Teaching staff also deliver PE twice a week and are well placed to let us know who would represent the school well. We put teams together that are both competitive and also mixed ability. The recent gymnastics squad was made up of a team who didn’t attend a club. Dance Umbrella is also an example of a dance team of volunteers. We feel there is also a place for our most able children in the area of sport to have the opportunity to take part in league fixtures and tournaments and progress through to county opportunities.</p>
<p>Academisation and joining the Wellsway Multi Academy Trust (WMAT) has strengthened the school. (7 parents were not positive about this statement.)</p>	<p>At Saltford we aim to understand and welcome change because change is learning and learning is our main focus. We feel that it is important to be an outward looking school – hence why we are very involved in teacher training for example. The opportunities for our staff to work outside the school to develop their expertise is an advantage because staff continue to develop and learn and bring new ideas to the school. These opportunities for professional development will ensure we retain our staff because they have the opportunity to continue to develop whilst maintaining their role in the classroom.</p> <p>Joining a Multi Academy Trust has been a huge learning curve for the school. Now we are two years in we will make sure we regularly share the benefits of working in a larger team so you have greater awareness.</p> <p>The WMAT produce a bulletin called Trust Matters to share the work and news of all the schools in the team.</p>

	<p>We regularly flag up the opportunities we have had because we are part of the trust in the newsletters.</p> <p>We have had significant investment financially from the trust into our buildings – an example of this are the new external doors and the new heating system installed in the main block.</p> <p>We have also had access to support and specialisms from other schools in the trust. We had huge support during our STEM week – for example a Science specialist leading whole school assembly, Year Two visiting the IKB studio school and Year 5 visiting Wellsway school for a science lesson.</p>
<p>The role and responsibility of the Governing Body and how to contact them (22 parents were not positive about this statement.)</p>	<p>The Governor section of the website is fully up to date – click here for pen portraits about our Governors. The weekly newsletter carries details with regards to contacting the Governing Body. Our new termly launch letter also has a Governor news section.</p> <p>The Governor run Parents Forum has offered a great opportunity for parents to gather together, share views and generate ideas to develop our school further. The format for this is going to be reviewed to make it more accessible to all.</p> <p>We will continue to work on raising the profile of the work of our Governors using all our communication systems.</p>

The above table is only a summary of how your views are listened to and acted upon. We have read all the comments and suggestions which have been made and will take this into consideration moving forwards.

We will be in touch with regards to our next meeting of our Parents Forum. I hope as many of you as possible will join us. If you cannot make it, please remember that you are always welcome to email or call in with your views and suggestions.

Mrs D Sage
Headteacher