

## Pollington-Balne CE (VA) Primary School



### Parent Survey – October 2023 - Analysis

## You said – so we did....

#### How do you feel about the set homework?

- **Good tasks set, however, some of the tasks not challenging enough. It would be nice to have feedback**  
*We will ensure that staff give feedback as appropriate. Parents are welcome to speak with the class teacher about the challenge of homework; it may be that it is for consolidation rather than stretch.*
- **Sometimes too much; a book, spellings and another handout sometimes with 4-5 activities. For my child this is too much**  
*Sometimes, a number of homework tasks will be sent out for over the half term / term. It is not an expectation that all will be completed. We will review how homework is set to ensure consistency. Please liaise with the class teacher regarding any concerns*
- **Homework should be optional – we do it when we have time and the inclination. I don't feel that the school puts pressure on children to do homework**  
*Homework is non-compulsory at primary school. However, we do expect children to read regularly at home and practice their spellings and multiplication tables. We try not to put pressure on the children. At year 6, children are supported and encouraged to revise for end of year assessments*
- **It's a challenge**  
*Parents are encouraged to discuss any challenges with the class teacher; some families prefer to have homework set while others do not due to other commitments. This can be agreed on an individual basis. We would encourage / request that children at least read / share a story everyday*

#### What would you like us to do better at school?

- **More school led after school activities that ran before covid – sports clubs for competitions – cross country – football & others / More after school activities that we don't have to pay for, like cross country, football, etc.**  
*This relies on the good will of our staff as well as fitting around training needs and staff meetings. In response to pressures around work/life balance and training, we addressed this by buying in services. However, we will review our offer and if we are able, will run additional activities at different times in the year. This year, we have arranged additional sports opportunities within school – dance, cricket and rugby to name a few. We achieved the Bronze Games Mark last year and are aiming for silver / gold this year.*
- **Sometimes a bit more clarity on events is needed. E.g. parents evening dates were sent out on the newsletter but there was no info on how to book them until the week after. Same for phonics meeting – a quick note to say where to go / if children are welcome, etc. would be useful**  
*Thank you for your suggestions, we continually review how we can better improve communication. The dates were written on the newsletter so parents had advanced warning on the Friday, as we do with other events. The information was sent out as planned and explained in the newsletter the following week. We appreciate that not all parents are able to organise childcare for things such as the phonics meeting. Unfortunately, we are not in the position to be able to operate a creche, therefore, if required parents are welcome to bring their children to the meeting, but we politely request that parents assume responsibility. We thank you for your support.*

- I would like the school to keep my and the other children that want to learn safe from the violent ones. Chaos in the classroom on most days. Violence to be taken seriously**

*We do not label our children as violent. We recognise that we have some children with high needs, which on occasion manifests in behaviours that are undesirable. As a school, we work hard to ensure the safety, wellbeing and learning of all of our children, including supporting Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs. We have staff trained as mental health first aiders and mental health champions. Any breaches in the behaviour policy are taken very seriously; we follow all policies and procedures and seek help / guidance and advice where necessary. We work very closely with the local authority. As previously communicated, staff have this year received training around Demand Avoidant behaviour, autism, Behaviour and Wellbeing in the classroom and other SEND strategies. We have support from the social and emotional wellbeing team (previously Behaviour Support), educational psychologist, safeguarding in education team and the wider SEND team. We are reviewing policies, including our behaviour policy, and have begun to work using the 'relational approach' for all of our children. We have introduced Zones of Regulation throughout school, have ELSA (emotional literacy support assistant / activities); adaptations for individuals as necessary. In addition, we hold regular PSHE lessons which includes work on relationships, self-esteem etc. We hold an anti-bullying week. We also invite a speaker from the Anti-bullying alliance to deliver a workshop to our children throughout the year. All allegations of bullying / child on child abuse are fully investigated and actions implemented as appropriate. This fits with our Christian Values. We work hard to ensure that every child is valued and supported according to their individual needs.*
- It would be nice as parents to have a list of expectations at the start of the new school year. We could then prepare our children and explain to them what is expected of them. Also to receive a message when they achieve (as particularly my child) can never remember why they got the certificate or sticker, etc.**

*Thank you for your suggestion – we will look to how we can change our practices ready for the next intake. Reasons behind certificates are communicated on the website. We will consider how else we can communicate this with parents.*
- The training and level of support for children who need extra help**

*We have regular training regarding SEND. Our Designated teacher also attends training for CLA / PCLA each half term. Interventions are implemented wherever possible.*
- Nothing – I am happy that both my children feel safe and are progressing well**

*Thank you for your feedback.*
- Better communication from school office – some things need more advance notice; messages could be clearer – e.g. covering notes with attachments that are sent out**

*Thank you for your suggestions, we continually review how we can better improve communication. We always aim to give advanced notification where possible. Unfortunately, some things are beyond our control, e.g, sporting fixtures, as this is dependent on external parties – we have this issue at both Pollington and Cowick and have tried to address this with those responsible.*
- Review how handwriting is taught / No more curly handwriting**

*We have reviewed our handwriting policy, using extensive research as well as training from the Sensory and Physical team. We held a meeting to discuss and share this information and VIPERS with parents; unfortunately, it was only attended by 1 parent.*
- Improve focus on correct spelling of basic words in KS1**

*We follow the RWInc approach for reading and spelling. There is an emphasis on 'red words' (You can't Fred a red). Children take home spelling words to learn each week – speedy green and red words. Spelling remains a priority area in school. Thank you for your comment.*
- We are very happy with the school – more integration with the PTA would also be welcomed if possible**

*Thank you – we really appreciate the hard work that goes into the running of the PTA. We do have 1 teacher who represents the staff regularly and will look to how we can support more. The School Business Manager will aim to meet with the PTA half termly; The Executive headteacher will endeavour to meet with the PTA termly.*
- Please be more mindful that not all parents drop off and pick up everyday**

*Please make sure you relay any concerns / communication to the admin team who will make sure it reaches the appropriate member of staff. The use of the planner can also be used for parents unable to speak with the teacher at the beginning / end of the day.*

- **Could Young Voices be an extra-curricular offer in the future?**  
*We did try and book onto this – but it was already fully booked, except for in London. We are looking into alternatives, including the Big Sing. We hope to be able to increase our participation in wider events and have just achieved to Music Mark for our school.*
- **More Sports Equipment**  
*Thank you to our fabulous PTA, we have been able to purchase more equipment both for PE and playtimes this term. We are also looking into purchasing a table tennis table*
- **More updated School App to allow contact with teacher**  
*Thank you for this suggestion. We are looking into rolling something out in the spring term – so teachers can share updates, communicate regularly, etc. However, in the interest of work life balance for our staff, we would request that communication goes via the office.*
- **School led after school activities that were in place and run by school; More opportunities e.g. educational trips**  
**Yorvik Centre and Young Voices examples of opportunities other local schools seem to have / More opportunities e.g. educational trips similar to those other local schools participate in**  
*See above r.e. after school activities. We aim to have at least 1 whole school educational visit per year, for example Yorkshire Wildlife Park, Panto, theatre trip. The Year 5 and 6 children take part in an optional residential visit. Classes arrange visits according to what they are learning in the curriculum and we attend occasional enrichment activities. We need to balance the opportunities we are able to offer with the cost of living. Some families have more than 1 child to pay for and unfortunately, there is not money in the budget to be able to afford this, so we rely on voluntary contributions. Transport has increased significantly and it costs around £1000 to arrange 1 bus / coach. We then have to factor in the cost of the visit itself. We ensure that educational visits fit with topics being learned – therefore, visits that other schools may have would not necessarily be appropriate for our school.*
- **Notify us of activities in advance – although this has got better**  
*This is an area we are always trying to improve. Unfortunately, some things are beyond our jurisdiction, such as events organised by external partners – but we will always try and give as much notice as possible. In addition, sometimes events need to be postponed / cancelled at very short notice.*
- **Communication in advance – no more 1 day notice**  
*See above*
- **The award / certificate system is very positive. However, it sometimes can make a child feel deflated if rarely chosen when they feel that they are trying their best**  
*We are reviewing our systems – however, with 125+ children on roll, we try to pick out for the celebration assembly children that demonstrate excellent achievements according to their own ability whilst keeping it fair. Classes also have individual rewards. There are 38-39 opportunities over the year for the children to be chosen for a certificate in whole school celebration assemblies.*

**Do you:**

**Read the school newsletter? Yes / No 26**

**Use the school website? Yes / No 22**

- Sometimes – it's sometimes out of date – we will endeavour to update regularly
- Occasionally

**Use Facebook? Yes / No 23**

- How do I get added to the Facebook? – contact the office