

Dear Parents,

### **Re: Parent Questionnaires**

As mentioned in Mrs Barnett's letter dated 5<sup>th</sup> June, we wanted to write to you in more detail with regards to your responses from the annual SMAS Parent Questionnaire.

We really appreciate so many of you taking the time to complete this survey. We have carefully analysed your responses and read all your comments, and key areas for development will feed into our school action plans moving forward.

There were some overriding themes that came out of the questionnaires., both strengths of the school and areas to develop. These are detailed below.

#### **Areas of Strength**

Some strengths that shone through from the questionnaire are that children feel happy (91%) and safe (93%) at our school. Parents are pleased with the range of subjects that are taught to pupils across all key stages (91%) too. It is also pleasing that many parents commented on the improvement in the way SEND is run and structured, with the SENDCO now being non-class based. This is something that the leadership team has worked hard to enable from September 2022, as the workload around SEND seems to be ever increasing. Another area that parents comment positively on is the high expectations set by school staff. Most parents feel that their child is challenged or pushed appropriately, and therefore does well at SMAS.

You comment on or that:

"The passion of some of the staff to go the extra mile and make learning fun and understand the children's needs."

"Strong connections between different year groups."

"The school has high expectations and high academic standards whilst also being very nurturing."

"My children feel safe, happy and secure at this school."

The school "delivers the curriculum consistently and adds numerous curriculum days, events and activities to support this. It encourages the children to behave well and respect each other."

#### **Areas for development**

There are certain aspects of your child's experience, where responses are less positive, and we are very keen to work on these over the coming year. We will come back to you in the coming months with further information, but please see the key areas you identify below:

**Visibility of SLT / The Headteacher** A number of parents comment on the visibility of SLT, particularly in the playground in the mornings. We want to be a welcoming school so have been keen to address visibility and playground supervision quickly. Hopefully you have noticed changes already and we welcome anyone who would like to come and have a chat with us at drop off or pick up. We also take on board your comments on the KS1 playground supervision, and as a result have increased adult supervision to 4 members of staff at break times.

**Your child's learning** One area we feel needs further attention from us, is that parents would like to know more about both what their child is learning (13%) and how their child is doing throughout the year (21%). This is something that we are going to look at in more depth and will come back to you

in due course. In the meantime, please make use of the information that is available on our website in 'Our curriculum' and in the class letters about learning that are issued at the start of each term.

**Behaviour in a few specific year groups** Whilst the majority of parents feel that behaviour across the school is good, comments show that there are some concerns in specific year groups, primarily relating to individual pupils. We are proud to be an inclusive school and welcome children with a variety of needs. We work hard to support any child who faces challenges or has complex needs. However, we do not want instances of poor behaviour to impact negatively on your child and must get the balance right between encouraging understanding, inclusivity and empathy, and ensuring that all students feel happy, safe and able to learn. Please do talk to class teachers in the first instance, should you feel your child or your child's class is adversely affected. We are increasing supervision at breaktimes, looking into additional play equipment and monitoring this closely. The Leadership Team will also continue to always manage incidents in line with our behaviour policy and statutory guidance.

**Communication** Some parents comment that concerns are not always dealt with in a timely way (20%). Thank you for raising this; good communication is important to us, so this whole topic will now form a key strand of our School Development Plan for 2023-2024 and we will work on this. We also note your comments regarding your experiences when entering the front office. Staff always try to do their best in, what can often be, a very demanding and stressful environment. If we have fallen short on any occasion then we can only apologise for this. We will be reflecting on this as a team and considering whether there are any changes we could make that would improve this. It is an absolute priority for us that all SMAS staff are committed to helping and supporting you as families, making you feel welcome, and endeavour to support families or solve problems.

**After school activities** There were some requests for additional after school clubs in KS1 and Reception. This has been a historic decision, based on our knowledge of these young children. Many of them are so tired at the end of a full school day that it would be challenging for them to continue with additional after school activities. We appreciate, though, that not everyone is the same and will look into the option for additional clubs for our younger pupils. This will be dependent upon availability of external providers and in-school space.

**Personal development** Finally, a number of parents (21%) informed us that they were unaware of how the school supports each child's wider personal development. Rest assured that there is a very wide range of activities that we do on a daily basis to nurture and develop your child, in line with our whole school vision. Clearly, we have not provided you with enough information around this, so will be writing to you in due course to provide you with an overview of how this is woven into daily life at our school. We will also look to adapt our termly class letters so that these provide you with clear and regular updates on this each term.

We hope you have found this feedback useful and take it as evidence that your comments and views are always valued and listened to. As you know it is impossible to please everybody as we have such a diverse base of parents / families who all have their own needs and wants. We will, though, do our utmost to consider any majority viewpoints and keep the children's needs at the centre of everything we do.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs J Barnett, Mrs A Philpott, Ms C Davis-King and The Governing Body