



Bessemer Grange Primary School & Children's Centre

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Tuesday 25th November 2014

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for taking the time to respond to the autumn term Early Years and KS1 parent survey. We were very grateful for all the very positive feedback we received. There were also some very constructive suggestions for development. The two main issues identified for discussion at the parent forum were homework and communication. This is not to say that other issues were not valid, but we only discussed issues if they were mentioned on a number of questionnaires. If your issue is not mentioned below please see your class rep for some feedback.

Homework

A few parents voiced concerns on the questionnaire that the new homework system put children under too much pressure and that there was too much homework to manage. After discussion the parent forum felt that the new system offered parents the choice to do as much or as little homework with their children as they chose. It was felt however that some confusion has been caused by the fact that the statement 'this is not negotiable' has accidentally been left on the homework sheets. This will be removed and we reiterate the fact that homework at Bessemer is not compulsory, although the purpose of the new system is to involve parents in their children's learning and to provide fun tasks for families to complete together, so we hope most people will do at least some of it.

Communication

There were four elements to this; parent mail getting started, the volume of letters being sent out, the amount of notice given for trips and events and the signing up processes for parents' evening and clubs.

Parent mail is now up and running, however only 156 parents have signed up so far. Please do sign up to use it, you will receive emails and text messages about important events or cancellations and you can pay for trips online as well as giving permission for your child to attend – no more lost permission slips!

We are going to try to cut down the volume of letters wherever possible by covering information in newsletters and half termly class letters, and in future letters from F@B will only go out on Fridays (although this may not start this week). However we know that the majority of you would prefer to receive letters than miss out on information, so we cannot promise to cut down on letters dramatically.

In future you will always be given at least two weeks' notice for trips and events so you can make the necessary arrangements.



“Think, Act, Achieve”

Parents' evening signing up sheets stuck outside classrooms disadvantaged parents who do not pick up their children at 3.30. In future signing up sheets will not be used; instead letters about parents' evening will include reply slips offering you three time slot preferences. You will need to return the slip to school and the teacher will complete the appointment sheet. When this is complete it will be displayed on the classroom door and the website. No reply slips will be accepted until the day after the letter goes out so no parents are disadvantaged. This will be explained again before the next parents' evening.

The signing up process for clubs has also been changed and this was explained in a separate letter sent out on Monday.

Thank you again for your input and support.

Yours sincerely



Elizabeth Whitehead
Deputy Headteacher