



# Bessemer Grange Primary School

[www.bessemergrangeprimary.co.uk](http://www.bessemergrangeprimary.co.uk)

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**Executive Headteacher:** Ms Sarah Beard

**Head of School:** Mrs Elizabeth Whitehead

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

This year we have been collecting suggestions for the parent forum via the suggestions box in the main office and through feedback given directly to the class reps. We have received very few suggestions, hopefully this means that the majority of people are happy with the way that things are going!

The parent forum has had a meeting to discuss the suggestions made and the responses are as follows:

### **Could we have clarification on the items that children are allowed to have in their packed lunches?**

A list of items not allowed in lunchboxes was included in a school newsletter. This list is also available in the school office and will be added to the website.

### **Could there be more fish on the school lunch menu?**

It is difficult to source affordable, boneless fish, however we introduced a new fish option to the menu: sweet chili fish with noodles, but the children were very reluctant to try this and most of it was thrown away. We will continue to try out new fish recipes from time to time.

### **Could there be different healthy puddings on the menu?**

We do not have the capacity to serve hot puddings so the parent forum was unable to come up with many alternatives. We tried introducing cheese and biscuits but again this was not a popular option with the children. The kitchen manager has suggested serving malt loaf on occasion, but this will not be a weekly option.

### **Could baked beans be offered as a topping for jacket potatoes?**

When baked beans are on the menu as part of the main meal children can also have them with their jacket potato.

### **Could portion sizes be increased?**

This is difficult because children's appetites vary greatly! While some children finish their meal and could eat more, others throw a large part of their meal away. We will monitor waste to work out which meals children are finishing and increase those

portion sizes. We will also ensure that children know they can have seconds if wanted.

**Could there be more options available for tea at Bessemer Club?**

The meal served at Bessemer club is intended to be more of a snack than a complete meal. Introducing more options would significantly increase the cost of places at Bessemer Club. From September we will introduce the option of bringing a packed tea, however doing so will not reduce the price of a child's place as the staffing costs will remain the same.

**Could school stop rewarding children for home reading with cheap plastic toys as this is not environmentally friendly?**

Yes. Once the current stock of prizes has run out children will receive special pencils as rewards.

As you can see the majority of the suggestions received relate to school meals! In response to this we will work on updating the school meals section of the website to ensure that parents have as much information as possible.

As we informed you earlier in the year, we have decided to change the parent questionnaire that the parent forum sends out so that it focuses on one specific issue. This time the focus of the questionnaire is methods of communication. You can complete the paper questionnaire attached and return it to the office or use the following link to complete an electronic version. <http://bit.ly/BessemerSummer2018>

Please do complete the questionnaire as decisions about the ways in which we communicate with you will be made based on the responses.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely



Elizabeth Whitehead  
Head of School

## Bessemer Grange Parent Forum

### Summer Term Survey 2018

At the Summer Term Parent Forum meeting, reps discussed parent communications. Increasing numbers of parents are suggesting that the school stop sending paper letters home in book bags and instead use the ParentMail system only.

We would like to know what you think about this suggestion and if your view is the same for all types of school communication.

Please let us know how you would prefer to receive information from the school so we can consider whether there is demand for us to make a change.

This survey is also available online at <http://bit.ly/BessemerSummer2018>

Type of message	ParentMail only	Printed in book bags
School newsletters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Class newsletters and updates	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Letters about specific activities requiring action or a response e.g. trips, performances, clubs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Points to note / act on immediately e.g. nits, school closing early, photos, reminders about school rules and policies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

I have children currently in the following years at Bessemer:

- Nursery
- Reception
- Year 1
- Year 2
- Year 3
- Year 4
- Year 5
- Year 6

