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| SCA January 22 Newsletter | 18.01.22 |
| Dear Families  The new term is certainly underway and the holidays are a very distant memory as I’m sure you will agree. We have had a rocky start with an unprecedented number of absences both with our children and staff. However, we are managing with our fingers crossed, to keep everything as normal as possible. As I write this, I am listening to the children in Year 2 having their drumming lesson and it is a delight to hear them enjoying themselves so much in what feels like a return to normality. I hope that we can continue the rest of the term with as little disruption as possible. This issue is almost entirely devoted to the responses to our parental feedback survey. I am pleased to report that the responses were overwhelmingly positive and we are working hard to listen to our families and to provide pragmatic and realistic answers to any improvements that were suggested.  **Parents Feedback**  We recently sent out our parental surveys and had a very good response rate with over half the school population providing feedback. I am very pleased to share the feedback with you.  **My child is happy to come to school 98.9%** strongly agree or agree.  **Does school respond to concerns in a satisfactory and timely way?** **93.3%** strongly agree or agree  **Do you feel your child is safe and supported well in school?**  **98.9%** strongly agree or agree  **The school staff are approachable 98.9%** strongly agree or agree  ***What are the strengths of the school?***  There were many comments so I have just included the most frequently mentioned areas. This was a lovely read – thank you.  **Communication**  **Friendliness**  **Wellbeing**  **Inclusion**  **Strong dedicated teachers and support staff**  **Approachable staff**  **A family feeling**  **Kindness**  **Nurturing environment**  **Positivity**  **Staff enjoy their jobs**  **Teachers care**  **The school really cares**  **Welcoming, approachable and want to fix concerns quickly**  **Good education structure**  **Well organized**  **How could communication be improved?**  The feedback was mixed in this area. There were many very positive comments and some comments that deserve due consideration.  I hope this newsletter will be an additional source of communication regarding upcoming events and dates and will complement the information that comes through on parent mail and on the website calendar. *Could I remind everyone to update their Parentmail account when contact details change to ensure the most up to date information is received.* Some parents have commented that there are quite often last minute changes which are inconvenient. I acknowledge this and it is something that I would like to improve overall, however, there are times when this cannot be helped due to current circumstances.  Some parents have commented that they would like a return to face to face consultations and that 10 minutes may not be adequate. However, the overwhelming majority prefer the virtual meetings for a variety of reasons. This being said, I would like to remind you, in case the message has not been communicated adequately, that you are always welcome to have a face to face meeting if the circumstances allow and teachers are always happy to make an appointment to discuss your children’s progress outside of the dedicated consultation slots. The way we deliver consultations will be reviewed on a regular basis. All the teacher email details are on the website and many parents use this communication channel to talk about their children’s progress.  **Thankyou**  Thank you for your responses. We really appreciate the feedback and the time and effort it takes in a very busy world. We know we are not perfect but we are always striving to be the best we can be. Your feedback helps us and lets us know when we are on the right track with your lovely comments and also provides us with information for areas we need to work on. Our next issue focuses on the children’s feedback which makes for some very interesting reading!    We received the following notification from Central Beds Council as a separate letter to go out to all parents. I have included it as part of this newsletter.  Dear Parent/ Guardian Polite Request  We write to politely ask that as many parents/carers walk, cycle or scoot with their children to and from school; this will enable them the opportunity to develop vital road safety skills with you on the way, build up confidence and learn the ability to manage risk walking around their local community.  Parents with busy lives see driving as the most convenient choice to get children to school, taking the view that they are keeping them safe. Yet the combination of each individual decision means an increase in vehicle traffic and congestion particularly at the school gate.  BASC  As many of you are aware, we have a very popular before and after school club! Although we do take late bookings, could I just remind you to book as early as you can to avoid disappointment.  Please let us know if there is any other information you would like included in your newsletter. We are very happy to include community events where appropriate.  Mrs Jones | **Staff Update**  ***I’m sure you will join me in a huge congratulation to Mrs Hart who had a baby boy in December!!***  **Governors**  We are always looking to recruit more governors. If you would like to know more about the role or know anyone that would like to know more, please contact the school office for some details  Houses  We have rebranded our Houses. The Houses were named after local areas in 2013, however we felt that we needed a more universal outlook and the children agreed it was time for a change. The colours remain the same but the Houses are named after the seasons. This was the children’s suggestion. They also came up with a new slogan  Whatever the weather, we are stronger together!!  ***What improvements could the school make?***  The most frequently mentioned areas and comments. During the coming months we will work hard to respond and make improvements in the areas which are in our remit to do so.  **Parents stop blocking up the path outside school.**  **Opening the gates earlier.**  **Stop scooters and bikes being used dangerously on the way to school**  **Parking (mentioned many times)**  **More space**  **More clubs**  **Better communication**  **Rain shelters**  **More homework**  **Less homework**  **Wider paths**  **More activities**  **A PTA**  **More fundraising**  We realise that some parents/carers have no alternative but to drive their children to school, however, many are driving short distances where walking is a real option.  Those who have to drive to school can do their bit by parking away from the school entrance and walking for part of the journey. All we ask to help achieve a safer, cleaner environment for all is that you **please do not:** ·  Stop in the middle of the road to drop your child off, even for a few seconds.  **· Block the road - emergency vehicles and other traffic may need access**  **· Park on any single, double yellow or School Keep Clear zig-zags**  **· Block the school entrance / exit**  **· Park where you will cause inconvenience to other road users/ pedestrians – i:e: footpaths, H bars, across dropped kerbs, residents’ driveways or grass verges**  **· Sit or leave your vehicle with the engine running**  **· Park opposite or within 10 metres of a junction**  By following the polite request above you can make a huge difference to the congestion around schools, making it safer and less stressful for all.Thank you for your co-operation with this matter.  Yours sincerely  Central Bedfordshire Council Road Safety Education Team  Email: [RoadSafety.Education@centralbedfordshire.gov.u](mailto:RoadSafety.Education@centralbedfordshire.gov.u)  **Upcoming Dates**  Parent Consultations 22nd,  23rd and 24th March.  Year 3 and 4 visit to the Think Tank 2nd March. |