

Shobnall Primary School



Monday 3rd October

Dear parents/carers,

I would like to say a huge thank you to all those parents who spent time filling in the questionnaire that I sent out last week regarding communication. We received just over 80 replies and whilst most of the responses were very similar, there were definitely one or two comments which I appreciated and as a result, I will be looking to act upon some of your requests and ideas.

I will just highlight some of the common themes of the feedback and explain a little more about some of the factors which impact on our communication:

Positives:

- A significant number of parents feel as though the school is meeting their requirements in terms of communication.
- Many parents are enjoying receiving the new school newsletter.
- Many of our parents access the school website although only for information regarding dates.
- Most parents are positive with regards to the implementation of our new PFA but would like more parents to become involved in the organisation and with attendance of events.
- Parents feel as though the school listens to and responds to their concerns and like the 'open door' policy.
- Parents are positive that the school promotes safety concerns, including online safety.

Developmental Points:

- Parents like the text message service but some would like the messages to go to both parents – ***unfortunately the system we use only allows the school to send one text message out per family. However, if you would like the school to update your contact details and change the primary contact number then please pop into the school office and we can sort this out with immediate effect.***
- Parents appear interested in the concept of Twitter as a tool of communication but many don't actually use this form of social media – ***After consulting a number of other schools not just locally but nationally, this is often the initial response. However, once the system is up and running, parents begin to realise the***

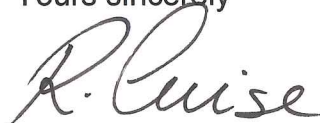


positive value of such communication. If the school was to utilise this application, I would of course be writing to you, explaining more about Twitter and the benefits. In turn, we would also be sending out permission forms for the whole school to obtain parental permission for photographs to be used on such a form of media.

- Some parents have suggested adding homework activities/additional challenges for children on the class page on the school website – ***we really like this idea and will be actively looking at implementing this. We are aware though that this sort of admin task would require additional funding for a member of staff to update the website on a weekly basis.***
- Some parents have suggested receiving the weekly newsletter by email and that sometimes they receive multiple copies of the same letter with having more than one child in the school – ***again a number of schools have completely dispensed with sending any paper letters out and all contact is completed via e-mail. The school is very happy to deliver this service also so should you require e-mail correspondence of all letters in the future then please do not hesitate to contact us. However, please be aware that the majority of letters can be found on the school website should you misplace any.***
- ‘Meet the Teacher’ nights good but timings don’t suit all parents – ***Unfortunately this is a theme which has been prevalent for the last few years. Some of you may remember that we have tried different timed meetings in the past, some starting at 6 or 7 or on one occasion even later. However, the attendance was still small because of child care issues.***

As always, we welcome any ideas and suggestions that you may have and I believe that it is essential that all forms of communication are as accessible as possible. I really am grateful to those of you who completed the questions and if you would like to come in to school and talk about these or any other issues then, as always, the door is always open. Alternatively, should you wish to catch either myself or Mr Adams on the school doors in the morning then that is one of the primary reasons for us being there.

Yours sincerely



Mr R. Cruise
Headteacher