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# SEBERT WOOD NEWS

## PARENT SURVEY 2015

Thank you to those of you who returned the questionnaires. There were 30 questions, covering a wide range of school issues and having analysed your responses they were generally very positive. The vast majority of you said 'strongly agree' or 'agree' for all 30 statements and for the summary below we have combined those of you who 'strongly agreed' or 'agreed' to get our total positive scores. In the 1—10 rating section, 94% of you rated the school on 8 or above (a 3% increase on the score in the last survey), which is very pleasing for all those associated with the school. The examples below demonstrate the exceptionally high levels of positive ratings;

*'My child feels safe at school' - 100%, 'The school is welcoming and friendly' - 100%, 'the weekly email updates, newsletters and website provide useful information' - 100%, 'My child is happy and enjoys school' - 99.5%, 'I am satisfied with the standard of teaching' - 99% 'I am happy with the progress my child is making' - 99%, 'I am happy with the values and attitudes that the school teaches' - 99%. 'The school is a caring place' - 98%, 'The school sets high standards of behaviour' - 98%, 'I find parents evenings helpful and informative' - 98%. 'The school is well led and managed' - 97% (a 4% improvement since the last survey). 'The school gives me opportunities to get involved and play an active part as a parent' - 96%, (a 7% increase since the last survey). Another significant improvement since the last survey was - 'I think the school has high expectations of my child' - 8% disagreed in the last survey but only 2% of you disagreed this time.*

Some of your ratings were not quite so high and aspects where you rated the school at a slightly lower level were; *'I am well informed about how my child is getting on' - 10% disagreed (however, this is a 3% improvement since the last survey) and 'There is a good range of clubs and extracurricular activities for my child' - 12% disagreed but this is an 8% improvement since the last survey. With regard to questions about the governing body, for the question 'I know who is on the governing body of the school' there was a 10% increase, but for the question 'I feel the governors are accessible' 50% of you still disagreed or did not know. We will continue to address the issues you raised by including more information about governors on the website and in school.*

About a quarter of parents who returned their surveys wrote additional comments. Thank you to those of you who took the time to make these. Unfortunately there is not enough space in this newsletter to write every comment but the comments below give you a flavour of the views expressed.

### A range of the comments/opinions on the schools strengths

*A great environment for our children to start their academic life, friendly and committed staff, a strong and caring community, pupils feel part of a team, consistency of teaching in year groups, great wrap around care, community spirit, all staff are fantastic, passionate and enthusiastic, addressing individuals needs and recognising strengths in every pupil, awesome staff and involved caring parents, a very nurturing place for children, high expectation of learning and behaviour, children feel safe to take risks and be independent, excellent communication and organisation, a friendly office team, great range of clubs, well led, relaxed but with a very high standard of learning, amazing staff, approachability of teaching staff and headmaster, our child is extremely happy at school, we are very pleased that the school is extending so my child can stay until year 6, my child is very shy but she loves being in school, for me there is nothing I would change!*

### A range of the comments/opinions on areas to improve

*More parents evenings and reports, individual feedback when a child is struggling, more information about the new building, extra small group support for children, more reading books, too much homework, more specific targets for improvement, more information about the curriculum, more clubs for younger children, more sport, more one to one reading, more information about what the support programmes are, better induction when children start school, one to one music tuition, more opportunities to see learning in action, improve discipline, more information about events., not enough homework!*

The comments you have made are very welcome and we will be looking more closely at them to see how we can address concerns and suggestions but also to build on the good work already taking place throughout the school.

## Curriculum Week—2nd to 6th March

We are all looking forward to our exciting Curriculum Week all about authors. Each Year group is tailoring the experiences and learning to meet the needs and interests of all their children, culminating with a “come dressed as your favourite book character” day on Friday 6 March. Year 4 are creating art and stories based on the work of James Mayhew and Year 3 are turning themselves into non-fiction authors to create a variety of information books. Year 2 have an illustrator visiting and will be including maths and orienteering activities based on stories, as well as writing and creating their own books. Year 1 have a wide variety of story telling and making activities planned, including a visit from a storyteller and puppeteer who some of you may remember (guess who)! In Reception the children will be exploring the work of Mick Inkpen and Nick Butterworth and the Nursery will be sharing favourite characters and books and enjoying story telling activities. Start thinking now about which costume your child will wear for our dressing up day!

### Fundraising information

#### Wear Red Day

Last Friday we held our Fitness Friday combined with Wear Red day to raise money for an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) for school and community use. We had two very active ‘Huff and Puff’ sessions in the school hall, ably led by Mrs Banns and her fantastic team of pupil helpers. Both sessions were well supported by parents and thanks to the generosity shown we have so far raised an amazing £400 towards the AED. Further fundraising events both in and out of school will be held soon to raise the final amount and purchase the unit. Thank you to everyone for their support for this great cause.

#### Year 3 Cake Sale

On 30 January, Year 3 children held a cake sale to raise money for Cancer Research UK and resources for Year 5. The cake sale was the idea of Chloe Bugg, Elise Wright, Jessica Tovey, Beth Willis and Imogen Reed and they did a great job of organising, promoting and setting up the event by themselves. They sold delicious cakes at break time and raised £25.80 for Cancer Research and £31 for Year 5 resources. Well done to the girls for being so thoughtful and proactive and to those parents and children who spent time making cakes for the sale and to all of you who gave your child money to buy the cakes. The girls received an email from Cancer Research UK, thanking them for donating and ‘*joining in the fight to beat cancer sooner*’.

### KEY DATES FOR 2015

*Please note that some of the dates below may be subject to change as the new building work progresses. Further dates and information may also be added to the list.*

#### HALF TERM BREAK 14 February—22 February

##### February 2015

Thurs 26 Nursery Informal Information Evening

##### March 2015

Week beg 2 Curriculum Week (see above)

Fri 6 **DRESS UP DAY—BOOK CHARACTER\*\*\*\*\***

Week beg 9 Reception mums to tea afternoons' (details TBC)

Tues 10 Phonics meetings for Year 1 parents—2.30—3.20 & 6.00—6.50

Weds 11 Class 5 Bring someone to lunch

Mon 16 Year 4 Maths Roadshow event

#### EASTER HOLIDAYS 30 March—14 April

##### April 2015

Mon 13 Staff training day—no pupils

Tues 14 Pupils return to school

Fri 24 Deadline for Nursery applications

##### May 2015

Fri 22 Staff training day—no pupils

#### HALF TERM 23 May – 30 May

##### June 2015

Mon 8 New Reception parents meeting 7.30 pm

Thurs 11 New Reception parents meeting 4.30 pm

Mon 22 Reception outdoor sports activities 10.00 — 11.00 am

Tues 23 KS1 sports 9.30—11.30 am

Weds 24 KS2 sports 9.30 – 11.30 am

Thurs 25 Nursery outdoor sports activities 10.00—11.00 am & 2.00—3.00 pm

Thurs 25 Nursery induction meeting for parents 5.00 pm

Mon 29 Reception Reserve sports (same time)

Tues 30 KS1 Reserve sports (same time)

##### July 2015

Weds 1 KS2 reserve sports (same time)

Thurs 2 Nursery reserve sports (same times)

#### ANNUAL PUPIL REPORTS GO OUT

Mon 6 Whole school open evening 3.45 – 6.00 pm

#### Weds 22 END OF SUMMER TERM

## **OTHER INFORMATION**

### **Buildings update**

The work on the new building is on schedule and the contractors are currently digging out the foundations and filling with concrete. Soon you will see the steel structure begin to take shape which should give you a much better idea of how the building will look when completed. During half term we are creating additional play areas with a woodland trail amongst the trees in the area next to the side gate entrance.

### **New secondary school**

The pre planning consultation period for the new high school is open. Leaflets about the plans have been emailed to you via Parentmail and copies of some of the images can be seen in the notice board outside the front office. Further information can also be found in the school office/foyer area.

### **Parents Evenings**

It was great to see so many parents in school during the two evenings last week. We hope you received all the information you required. If however you still have any questions or queries, please don't hesitate to ask the class teacher, email or phone the office.

### **Safer Internet Day**

On Tuesday the school took part in Safer Internet Day 2015. In a whole school assembly, Mr Dewhurst introduced the children in years 1—4 to the day and explained about keeping safe on the internet. This was followed up by a range of class activities to reinforce the idea of keeping safe in the modern digital world.

### **Destination Democracy**

On Wednesday, Year 4 took part in workshops about democracy in Britain. In the morning they were treated to a production by professional actors, all about the history of democracy and why it is important to vote. Both the production and following workshops were very entertaining but also very informative and educational. The day was provided free by the Department of Education and we were one of only a few Year 4 groups in Suffolk selected in the eastern region.

### **Parents to Lunch**

On Thursday, Class 6 were joined by parents and grandparents for lunch. Thirty five guests joined us for a roast dinner, 'Pick and Mix' or a packed lunch. We have since received a number of emails commenting on how enjoyable the event was and for the delicious food. Well done to Lucy Turner and her team for preparing the additional meals.

## **Tag Rugby Competition**

*Report by Olivia Barber and*

*Justin Clarke*

On Wednesday 4th February, ten children from Year 3 and 4 entered the Bury Schools Partnership Tag Rugby Tournament at Bury Rugby Club. These ten children were Olivia Barber, Rose Cross, Yasmin Johnson, Holly Attwell, Charlotte Holmes, Joseph Cocksedge, Justin Clarke, Callum Deeley, Harry Sharp and Cameron Titchiner. Our coaches were Mr Brooks and Mr Dewhurst. There were twelve teams participating at the matches and we won seven games and came third. The winners won nine or ten games so it was close. We played really well and enjoyed the whole experience, even though it was freezing!

## **WHAT DO PUPILS DO WHEN THEY'RE NOT AT SCHOOL?**

In January, Barnaby Hunt (Class 8) took part in the English Field Archery Association shoot (Marked Forester round) and achieved a national record in the Cub section scoring 130 points. He completed a full day of archery and endured a full day of snow and rain when some of the adult competitors went home for lunch! He is very pleased with his achievement and rightly so. Congratulations Barnaby!

Alfie Campbell (Class 7) has been Karting since the age of 6 and now trains with the Young Starz team at Red Lodge Karting. He has competed in endurance racing during the winter and has now made the grade to join Club 2000 Honda Cadet Class, a very competitive race series for talented young racers. He will be competing as one of the youngest drivers on the grid against older and more experienced drivers. What a great talent Alfie and best wishes in your forthcoming races.

*If you have a hobby, interest or achievement outside of school, in any field, please let Mr Dewhurst or the school office know about it and you may get a mention in the newsletter. You can send a note in via your child's class outlining the key information or send an email via the admin email address.*

*Have a great half term break.....Pete Dewhurst and everyone at Sebert Wood Primary School!!*