****

Dear Parents October 2018

Many thanks for taking the time to give us your thoughts about school at Parents’ Evening. We are always eager to improve and want to continue to ensure you are have an active part in school life.

It was great for us all to read the positive comments and we are doing our best to address issues raised in ‘What we could do better’, please see all the comments received below.

If you have any further comments or other issues you would like to discuss please do not hesitate to contact me, my door is always open.

Best wishes

Gaynor Leadbeater

Headteacher

**What do you like most about Highburton CE(VC) First School**

* Great parent & teacher communication.
* All staff members are fab!!
* My son is really settled.
* Staff are very friendly – it’s nice that the Headteacher is visible in the playground etc.
* I like how the school has and continues to develop my child. He continues to grow in confidence and really enjoys school. Thank you.
* The Christian ethos. Children are encouraged to be kind and caring to each other.
* It is very welcoming to parents.
* Parents’ Evening was most beneficial.
* Mrs Leadbeater is always present in the playground at the start and end of the day. She clearly leads the school.
* Office staff are most approachable and helpful.
* Our child is happy and making progress.
* Friendly, pupils and individuals.
* Good teachers.
* I love the friendly feeling the school has. Everyone always seems happy to help and I love that my child loves coming to school.
* The teaching, I have no complaints about this element and feel the teachers excel at what they do, in particular: Mr Easby, Mr Penson, Mrs Illingworth & Mrs Tahir.
* The high standard of teaching and dedication of the staff.
* Very friendly approachable staff. My children are making good progress.
* All the after school activities you provide.
* All awards/medals given out (especially the manners award), forest school.
* Lovely little school.
* Friendly and both children enjoy coming.
* Home - school communication (bulletins, texts etc)
* Teachers/teaching/support staff
* After school activities/clubs
* School displays/classroom setting.
* It’s not too big. The children seem happy.
* I think things like forest school, bee keeping and skateboarding are fantastic.
* Staff seem to genuinely care about the children.
* Small community feel.
* Nice clean building.
* Always trying to keep students positive even when they are struggling.
* The ethos of involving parents in school activities eg. reading/trips
* A really friendly school, with lots of activities for the children.
* Friendly staff. My child loves it. Mrs Briggs is lovely and knows what to expect from my child.
* Nice friendly atmosphere.
* Friendly approachable nature of the teachers.
* Friendly teachers, happy children.
* The routine the children are in is brilliant. The teachers are fantastic, love most things really.
* My daughter’s gaining confidence in class. Good range of clubs.
* Staff are always friendly and helpful.
* Newsletters are always very informative and lovely to read.
* Small and friendly. Children enjoy attending.
* The range of after school clubs is excellent.
* Friendly and welcoming, perfect and nurturing for our children. Stay great!
* I like that children mix amongst the difference year groups and aren’t just kept together within their own year group all of the time. I think this is really good for building confidence when mixing with older children and also makes them more aware of the younger ones so that they can look out for them.
* The school has a caring, nurturing and friendly atmosphere. The quality of teaching and learning is good. The children get a broad range of experiences. My children are safe and confident.
* Everything, my child and I could not be happier.
* I love that my child is made to feel very welcome and enjoys coming to school every day.
* Local. Christian values. Friendly.
* Our daughter enjoys coming to school and looks forward to it on a Monday. It’s nice you have created this environment. We are pleased with her progress. Credit to the school.
* Extra-curricular clubs. Everything!
* The outdoor aspect of learning – Beekeeping Club and skateboarding are unusual and make the school unique. The teachers are great.
* Extra activities offered at school eg. Bushcraft, CSI club ETC
* How happy our child has been since he started this September and how friendly all the children and staff are.
* The GREAT communication between parent and teachers and the happy child at the end of the day.
* Welcoming school – parents are encouraged to be part of celebrations and activities.
* Our child enjoys school and is happy.
* It’s hard to say really it’s a fab school.
* Friendly and fun approach to learning, staff are welcoming and easy to speak to.
* Friendly atmosphere. We like that we can see the Headteacher outside very often – feels like we can talk to her if we need to.

**What would you like us to do better at school?** ***School response in italics.***

* Not providing too much homework as I feel the children need down time at the weekends with family. ***Homework Policy to be reviewed.***
* More Assistant teachers to support staff.
* More support in the classroom for the teacher and more support for children that are struggling. ***We would like that too but we have as many as we can afford however all children’s needs are met.***
* Communication with parents. Information not being supplied enough in a timely manner.
* Communication in general.
* Better communication, ie more time to organise things and just to let us know if a teacher will not be in class.
* Better communication. If a teacher is off sick for a few days then it would just be nice to know your child is having a different teacher for a week or so.
* More communication with parents.
* Communication of class news in particular.
* Possibly more communication about child’s progress eg. If we can help them more at home, if they are struggling etc.
* Maybe more communication about, homework, reading etc. More information on what we should be doing.
* More information on what to do at home with homework, reading.

***We have had positive comments about communication as well as negative ie some parents find communication very good and some parents don’t. Some of the ways we communicate:***

* ***Weekly Newsletter – emailed to everyone and on website***
* ***Texts as reminders***
* ***Notice Board outside school***
* ***Website***
* ***Termly online reports for all pupils in Year 1 to Year 5***
* ***Annual written reports for all pupils in school***
* ***Two parents meetings a year***
* ***Accessible staff including Headteacher***
* ***Letters to parents***
* ***Parent Drop-ins each half term.***
* ***Online curriculum newsletter that includes how you can help at home.***

***Following your comments we will advise you by text if your child’s class teacher is going to be absent for more than 2 days and who the replacement will be.***

* Remind children to bring regular reading book home and change it.
* It would be helpful to have the second parents evening before April in case of any issues which parents could help with. ***Annual reports go out in March after February half term and Parents Evening follows after Easter. This is usually April but Easter is very late this year and parent’s evening has been pushed into May.***
* Maybe change the font used on the website, fancy not easy to read! ***The font used on our website is Arial which is very plain. Our IT technician advises us that fonts can change depending on the device used for viewing and I’m afraid we have no control over that.***
* Better support at lunchtime – Play Leaders to help suggest games especially with the younger children. Each year ***Play Leaders are training after half term following completion of Befriender training. Year 5s will then work with younger children as Play Leaders.***
* More playground activities, equipment/hoola hoops. ***Please refer to the website for the Playtime Policy that gives details of playtime provision. Following your feedback we have pledged funds for more new equipment and have asked the Lunchtime Supervisors to supply a list – Hoola Hoops will be included.***
* Promoting diversity and difference as something positive. ***All children and their achievements are celebrated at Highburton. ‘Every child is valued as an individual’ is part of our mission statement. If there is an issue you would like to talk to me about please come and see me.***
* Nurturing. ***We commenced the National Nurturing Schools Programme in July 2018 and there will be a Parent Information evening being held later in the academic year.***
* Recognising not all is well all the time. Listening to parents and children’s concerns, not being defensive all the time. ***Of course things don’t always go according to plan and I’m sorry you feel we have been defensive. We are committed to listening to children – circle time, school council, Befrienders etc. and we want feedback from parents to ensure we are maintaining positive relationships and constantly moving forward – this exercise being an example of that. We do have an open door policy so please do not hesitate to talk to teachers or myself at any time.***
* Competitive sports. ***These are the events we participated in 2017/18 KS1 Cross Country, KS2 Cross Country, KS2 Sports Hall Athletics, Year 1 Multi-Skills, Year 5 Gifted & Talented, KS2 Rugby, KS1 Football, KS2 Hockey, KS2 Football, KS2 High-5 Netball, Reception & Year 1 Cross Country, KS2 Kwik-Cricket, Girls’ Football and Rounders. We were also one of the few primary schools to gain the Association for PE quality mark which is why we think our PE provision is AMAZING!***
* I haven’t found anything I’m unhappy with so far.
* Nothing – we think you are all doing a fantastic job ☺
* Nothing – keep up the good work ☺
* I don’t think there is anything unhappy with any aspect of Highburton First School.