

Cornerstone Church of England (VA) Primary School

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*Building our Community with Love, Forgiveness and Hope
Growing an Exceptional Learning Community*

PARENT SURVEY SUMMER 2015

Dear Parents,

Many thanks to everyone who responded to our parent survey at the end of last term. In this letter I will share a summary of the views and how we as a school will be aiming to respond during this academic year.

How much has your child or children enjoyed the year at Cornerstone?

Very much so	Quite a lot	Reasonably so	A little	Not at all
81%	13%	6%	0%	0%

When asked what had most pleased parents in terms of their child's learning and personal development, growing in confidence and social / interpersonal skills was mentioned by many parents. Progress in reading was felt to be very strong by the majority of families who responded, although progress in writing was also seen as a strength by some.

The next question asked what the school could do to further improve over coming years. We were pleased that many parents stated they could not think of anything or to maintain the current positives. However suggestions included increasing the number and range of extra-curricular activities and sports clubs. A greater number of school trips. More opportunities for handwriting practice. More opportunities for teacher parent dialogue and feedback about progress. One respondent also asked for clarification about the starting time of school, which we answered last term.

We are planning to increase the range of activities offered to the children this academic year, with some potentially being run at lunchtimes. We are also planning, with support from our Sports Advisor at Henry Cort, to work towards the Sainsbury's Sports Kitemark Bronze Award.

We acknowledge the point made about the number of school trips. Although every class did go on at least one trip last year, we understand that these days are an exciting and important part of school life for the children. We will be planning carefully how we can increase the number whilst ensuring quality of and relevance to learning during this year.

Handwriting will be one element of the children's learning which we will be focusing on more this year, following our monitoring last year and the Ofsted recommendations. It is already part of our Strategic Development Plan within Priority 2: *"All learners are challenged to achieve high standards / end of year expectations, make sustained progress and develop depth of understanding, through higher expectations in line with new National Curriculum."* It will therefore be something that Miss

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Pretty as our English Leader (and a designated Special Leader of Education in English) will be working on with all staff.

Having worked in a number of schools, in my opinion we offer regular opportunities for parent teacher dialogue, though often the daily contact is understandably brief and is usually about organisational matters rather than progress and learning. However the staff have given many extra hours to have additional meetings throughout the year with parents to discuss matters in more detail. If you would like to arrange a time to meet, please do speak to your child’s class teacher. We will not increase the number of publicised whole school Parents Consultations, as for most parents these are sufficient. I think it is also worth stating that the teachers do give a huge amount of time to preparing and running the range of meetings and to writing the end of year reports. My concern is that if we increase the number of scheduled meetings we will naturally minimise the amount of time they have for other important aspects of their roles.

How useful and effective have you found the communication from school this year?

Very useful and effective	Useful and effective	Quite useful and effective	Not useful or effective
56%	38%	6%	0%

When asked which form of communication parents found most useful and effective, the preferred form was face to face conversations. The second most popular was texting and the third was email. We will therefore endeavour to make sure we predominantly use these methods of communication. Please remember our website is still the central source of information, and we are ensuring that from now on copies of letters are placed on the website. We will continue to share achievements, news and photos on our Facebook page as we have received much positive verbal feedback about this. Please remember if you are not on Facebook you can still see these posts on the website.

How approachable are staff and how well are your ideas or questions listened to?

Very approachable / very well	Quite approachable / quite well	Reasonably approachable / well	Not approachable / not well
75%	19%	6%	0%

The next question asked what we could do to further strengthen home school partnerships. Again we were pleased that the majority of comments stated that parents were pleased with the current partnerships and would like them maintained. There were a couple of comments about the clarity of home learning tasks and instructions, which we will consider and try to improve. Please remember if you are unsure do speak to your child’s class teacher. One respondent also asked for all comments made in the home school link book to be replied to. We will certainly endeavour to do so, though at times we may communicate this verbally rather than in writing.

The final question was in regard to the process on exploring the Christian Values of the school and the Home Learning Discussions. The vast majority of respondents were very positive about the process, stating they felt it was an important part of the school, that they appreciated being invited to be involved and that it had led to some very interesting discussions with their children. A couple of comments were received stating that the content had been too grown up for YR and that there was too many discussions too quickly. Thank you for this feedback. We do appreciate that there were four in weekly succession, however our aim was to complete the process by the end of the summer term.

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We appreciate that we will not get every decision fully correct and also that it is not possible to please all of the people of all of the time, particularly as some families understandably have differing views on certain matters. We hope that because of this you also understand we will listen and consider all parental views, but will not action every request.

However we are committed to working in a positive partnership with you for the best interest, wellbeing and learning of your child. As always if you have any specific questions or queries please talk to a member of staff and we will endeavour to answer you as soon as possible.

Many thanks for your continued positive support and partnership

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Clarke', written in a cursive style.

Tim Clarke