



Carlton VC Primary School

Response to Suggestions for Possible School Improvements in the October 2023 Parental Questionnaire

| What you said: | What we have considered/acted upon |
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| General School | |
| <i>Uniformity with Dojos as older children in other classes do not seem to get as many.</i> | We held a staff meeting focusing on Dojo's and how/when they are given out. We now find that dojo points are roughly similar across the classes and teachers and teaching assistants give out Dojos in line with the Behaviour policy. |
| <i>School communication can be confusing and unclear = too many types of communication: Dojo, parentmail, emails, letters, website. I struggle to find a message as do not know where I have read it.</i> | <p>We introduced Class Dojo to help with communication about your child's learning and as a way of you being able to monitor your child's behaviour. This is our primary method of communication. We use School Stories and Class Stories to tell you about what is happening in the classrooms or whole school events. However, any office-based communication will be through Parentmail.</p> <p>Occasionally you may receive an email from teachers or office staff, but these will be operational whole school based rather than class based information.</p> <p>For calendar dates you should always check the calendar on the website as this is updated regularly. If we need to make changes, we announce the changes in the school newsletter, which is sent out via Dojo, and update the website. If changes have to be made at the last minute we announce this on Class Dojo School Stories.</p> |
| <i>Teacher absences are quite high across the board and we are not informed if teachers are off. TAs seem to take the slack rather than supply teachers.</i> | <p>Unfortunately, we do seem to have had a spate of illness amongst the staff and this cannot be helped.</p> <p>If a teacher is ill, we will always try to get a supply teacher, unfortunately, this is not always possible. We have 3 members of staff who are</p> |

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| | <p>HLTAs which means they are qualified to teach classes in the short term, following the teacher's plans. If we are unable to get supply then we may put one of the HLTAs in to cover the class. We are very lucky to have such skilled teaching assistants. We also have a trainee teacher, Mrs Collier, who is more than capable to take a class.</p> <p>As parents you can also help to reduce staff illness by ensuring that if your child is unwell you keep them at home, until they have recovered. This does stop the spread of germs and resulting illness.</p> |
| <i>-Staff having name badges.</i> | <p>All staff have name badges and should be wearing them, please do feel free to challenge any member of staff who does not have one.</p> |
| <i>-Consistency with behaviour policy</i> | <p>A new behaviour policy was put into place in September. We held an information event for parents to discuss how it would be put into place. The policy was discussed with the children, in detail, and it was modelled to them. We conducted a staff training day focusing on the behaviour policy and Zones of Regulation. This is now fully embedded throughout the school.</p> <p>All children understand and are now working within these principles. There are some children that need more support in this area than others, however, all children are treated fairly.</p> |
| <i>-There are different teaching styles - teachers need to be more consistent.</i> | <p>Although we understand the basis of this statement. Just as we celebrate the ways that all the children are unique and individual, so are our teachers. We feel that it is a positive for children to be exposed to different teaching styles it is an important life skill, ready for the adult world.</p> <p>We are very fortunate that, although our school is small, we have a fantastic team of teaching staff. However, we also understand that if you are worried about any of our staff or about your child settling, please make an appointment to discuss your concerns as many can be resolved immediately.</p> |

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| <i>- Dojo communication needs to be better can you utilise Dojo to communicate new tasks to parents i.e. spellings.</i> | This is a fantastic idea and hopefully this will be used in future to send out spellings etc. |
| <i>-On the website it is not easy to know what has been updated.</i> | As a school we update the website calendar weekly, if there is a reminder it will go out on Class Dojo. Most other updates or changes will be mentioned in the newsletter. |
| <i>-On special food days – why is the menu always burger/hotdog and chips?</i> | As a school we do not have control over the menu. We buy in the school meals from a company called Caterlink. However, this point will be passed on to them. |
| <i>- ASC and BSC forms are completed for the term – this is so frustrating when changes come out 2 weeks in and we have to review our need.</i> | You may change your bookings with BSC and ASC up to 24 hours before the booking without being charged. We understand that your needs may change and are happy to help in the office with any changes you need to make. There may be times due to numbers that this will not be possible, however we will do our best to try and help. |

| Squirrels Class | |
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| <i>-Parentmail for nursery children.</i> | During September/October there were some problems with parentmail for the Nursery children. This has now been rectified and parents of Nursery children should now be receiving all parentmails. |
| <i>-Encouragement of water drinking.</i> | Water is encouraged throughout the day by all the teaching staff. |
| <i>-Books changed more frequently</i> | Phonics reading books are changed at least once a week. It is really important that children re-read the same book at least 3 times. In this way children begin to read words automatically allowing for better comprehension and building fluency and expression. Phonics reading books should not be the only book children are reading and hearing read. It is |

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| | <p>really important to share books that are above their ability to decode. Reading to them, looking at pictures, talking about the stories and therefore showing them the joy and purpose of reading.</p> <p>In school we read to the children everyday in multiple ways; whole class, small groups and one to one. We also hear the children read in many ways over the course of the week including their phonics reading book.</p> |
| <i>-Communication about PE</i> | <p>Reception children have PE on Tuesdays. They should keep their kit in school, on their peg and will get changed for PE in school.</p> <p>Nursery children will take part in some physical activities in the hall when it is appropriate. They will not get changed, but will remove their shoes and socks.</p> <p>All Squirrels children have constant access to the outdoors and will develop their physical skills in a wide variety of ways every day.</p> |
| <i>-Disappointed that my child says that they watch TV a lot.</i> | <p>There are times when children watch educational programs on the large computer screen. This always has a purpose and is linked to the learning outcomes we are focusing on. This doesn't happen more than once in any given day and certainly not every day.</p> <p>At the end of term, or when rewards targets are met, the children may choose to watch something that is age appropriate.</p> |
| <i>-More staff needed in the classrooms especially at drop off.</i> | <p>We acknowledge that at the start of the Autumn Term there seemed to be some confusion at drop off. As all the children were new to the setting at that time, it was challenging to support all the children and parents, as they found their feet. However, we believe that this was a teething problem which has now been resolved.</p> |
| <i>-More information on routines.</i> | <p>Mrs Williams will be sending out a curriculum letter this term with some of the lines of learning that the children will be following.</p> |
| Hedgehogs | |

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| <p><i>- The class does not seem stable it is always changing.</i></p> | <p>There have been quite a lot of staff changes in Hedgehogs and I know this could have seemed really erratic during the Autumn Term. However, we now have a fantastic teaching team in Hedgehogs (Mrs Simmonds, Mrs Coppenhall, Mrs Rochford and Mrs Muldowney) and I believe it will make a huge difference to the stability, communication and dojos.</p> |
| <p><i>-Big change from Squirrels</i></p> | <p>Although Hedgehogs is a change from being in Squirrels, now the class is using Continuous Provision, there will be many more similarities. The children will be learning in the same way as they did in Squirrels, obviously it will be age related and as the year progresses Year 2s will have more focused work to complete.</p> |
| <p><i>-More communication about what HH are learning.</i></p> | <p>Mrs Simmonds and Mrs Coppenhall will be sending out a curriculum leaflet with all the streams of learning for this class.</p> |
| <p><i>-Concerned about Mrs Fenders replacement – will there be a regular teacher?</i></p> | <p>Hedgehogs class, has had many changes, but hopefully now we are in the Spring Term the changes will have passed. Hedgehogs now have Mrs Simmonds for 4 days, Mrs Coppenhall for 2 days and Miss Rochford will teach PE on a Tuesday afternoon. This is obviously more than 5 days but we wanted to make sure Hedgehogs had good handover times and communication between the two main teachers.</p> |
| <p><i>-Sometimes only carrots are left for children and this can be a bit tough at snack time.</i></p> | <p>Unfortunately, snacks are given out on a first come first served basis. However, if you want your child to have a particular healthy snack, please do feel free to provide it but can it pleased be named.</p> |
| <p><i>-Confusing homework and it is very hit and miss</i></p> | <p>We are in the throes of changing the homework throughout the school and now we will be working on a grid system. All children should be practising reading and spellings, but there will also be a homework grid available for your child to choose activities from.</p> |

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| <p><i>-The website says TT rockstars but I have had no communication on this.</i></p> | <p>TT Rockstars should be available from year 3. If your child has not got log in details – please ask your teacher for details.</p> |
| <p><i>-Sharing class topics so that we can help at home.</i></p> | <p>Curriculum leaflets are now on the website under class pages.</p> |
| <p><i>-Not expecting a child to walk the woods on their own.</i></p> <p><i>-On arrival and waiting in line could the children play a game?</i></p> <p><i>-To have exercise first thing to allow late comers to join in.</i></p> | <p>We realise that Hedgehogs Class can be on the playground a long time, waiting for all children to join. We do not expect Hedgehogs children to walk through the wooded area on their own.</p> <p>Therefore, the class teacher will greet children at 8:45am when the gates open and at 8:55am they will walk the children to the classroom.</p> <p>Another adult will be on the playground to greet children from 8:55am and will walk the children around to their classroom at 9:00am.</p> <p>All children arriving after 9am will need to enter the school through the school office.</p> |
| <p><i>-Have arrival until 9:15am</i></p> | <p>Unfortunately, we are unable to do this.</p> <p>Classes have a start time of 8:50am which is when learning begins. Children will have learning activities to complete until the register is taken. If your child arrives at school after 9am, this equates to nearly an hour of lost learning time each week.</p> <p>The register is taken by 9:10am.</p> |
| <p><i>-There is a lack of flushable wet wipes in the toilets impacting cleanliness.</i></p> | <p>As a school, we simply cannot afford to provide flushable wet wipes. If you would like your child to use these, you may provide them and your child can keep them in their bag.</p> |
| <p><i>-Worried about continuous provision – will it impact their learning and will the children struggle going into year 3?</i></p> <p><i>- Seems to be playing and no learning.</i></p> | <p>There is a lot of research available on why learning through play is so beneficial and effective. Children make better connections in the brain when their brain and body are both involved in activity and they are doing something that is interesting to them. As a school, we believe that Continuous Provision gives children a better start to their education and provides a</p> |

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| | <p>higher level of independence, wellbeing and confidence in their own abilities.</p> <p>Due to Covid restrictions children have had their education and development disrupted and suffered with both mental health and social skill problems. Continuous Provision gives children the opportunity to learn social skills alongside developing their characteristics of effective learning and becoming an individual.</p> <p>If you would like to know more about learning through play and Continuous Provision we would be happy to give you links to further information.</p> |
| Woodpeckers and Owls | |
| <i>-PE days have caused confusion</i> | All information regarding PE has gone out on class Dojo. KS2 children will come in to school wearing PE Kits as we feel it is more appropriate on a safeguarding level. |
| <i>-Requirement to check parentmail/dojo/website – very time consuming.</i> | <p>All class notices will go out on dojo, operational business will go out to parents using parentmail first and then reminders on Dojo.</p> <p>See general comment above for more details.</p> |
| <i>-School badges needed for School Council.</i> | We have now issued school badges for the school council members. |
| <i>-Staff sickness</i> | Unfortunately, we do seem to have had a spate of illness amongst the staff and this cannot be helped. We are lucky to have some HLTA qualified staff amongst our TAs who are able to step in, if supply is unavailable. It would also be really helpful to us that – if your child is ill they are kept at home until they are well – this does stop the spread of unwanted illness. |
| <i>-Child has anxiety about losing dojos.</i> | Our behaviour policy is now very robust and praise is always used to boost children's behaviour first. If, however, a child does lose a dojo there will be a note put on for parents to read so they understand the reason why. We ask that you can support our teachers with this. |

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| <i>-Child not getting dojos at all on some days.</i> | Dojo's do need to be earned but there are lots of ways a child can earn a dojo and we believe that they are given out regularly as this is monitored. |
| <i>-Dojo and behaviours do not follow on during playtime. Bad behaviour goes unchallenged.</i> | All staff have received training on our Behaviour Policy. Behaviour at playtime and lunch time is not treated differently. All unacceptable behaviour, that does not follow 'The Carlton Way', is challenged. |
| <i>-Not being able to see the board from the back of the classroom.</i> | If your child is having problems within the classroom, please speak to the class teacher directly as soon as possible. This is something that is easily rectified. |
| <i>-Children taking things from pencil case.</i> | This is very serious and should be reported to the teacher immediately. We do not tolerate stealing in any form. |
| <i>-Unsettled by noisy class and teachers shouting.</i> | Classes will invariably be noisy sometimes, teachers may need to raise their voice at times. If you are concerned about this, please speak to the teacher involved or make an appointment to see Mrs Bevis. |
| <i>-Less blanket telling off of the whole class, when it is a few.</i> | The Behaviour policy ensures that children are individually held to account for their behaviour. If a whole class is reprimanded, this will be due to the whole class' behaviour. |
| <i>-Communication from the school office is confusing and often contradicts what the teacher has said.</i> | In the past there has been a little miscommunication, however, Dojo is always the first choice for teachers to communicate. If the information you require is not on the website or Dojo, please feel free to message your child's teacher as they will hopefully be able to answer your query the quickest. |
| <i>-Could Dojo be integrated with parent points?</i> | Unfortunately, this is not possible with the package we provide. It also would not be fair as it would then cause inconsistency if all parents did not pay for this package. |
| <i>-Sports day could be more challenging.</i> | This year we will have a mixture of traditional races and the recent Sports Day activities. |

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| <p><i>-More sports in general.</i></p> | <p>Children have at least 2 PE lessons a week. There will be more in the summer to allow for swimming. We have also signed up for the SSG group so the children will have opportunities to take part in Sport. We also have Miss Rochford on a Tuesday who is a sports specialist and she will take each class for a PE session.</p> |
| <p><i>- Mrs Frost is taken out of the classroom quite a lot due to her SEND role.</i></p> | <p>Mrs Frost is the SENDCo and is new in this role, which means that she will need to train so that she is up to date with all the latest SEND information. She will be out of the classroom for a whole day (usually Thursdays) for her SENDCo time and PPA. However, we are extremely lucky to have Mrs Collier who is training to be a teacher and she will cover for Mrs Frost on a Thursday and Friday. All lesson planning is also checked by Mrs Frost before delivery.</p> |
| <p><i>-Staff Absence – TAs are not teachers.</i></p> | <p>Although TAs are not teachers, they are very skilled in what they do. We are lucky to have 3 High Level Teaching Assistants and these are qualified to teach. We also have a trainee teacher who is very capable. On the occasions that teachers are out of the class, for whatever reason, it is good practice for pupils to have someone that they know.</p> |
| <p><i>- I would like to see teachers on the playground when they gate opens at 8:45am sharp.</i></p> | <p>When Mrs Bevis opens the gate at 8:45am, teachers need to be in the class ready to start teaching. However, there should be Miss Ireland and a member of staff from Hedgehogs on the playground. On some occasions this is not possible, but there will always be at least one member of staff.</p> |
| <p><i>- I would like to see a school trip taking place.</i></p> | <p>Now that the Covid restrictions have been lifted this is a priority for this year. Squirrels and Hedgehogs are currently looking into their trip. Woodpeckers will be going to see the Philharmonic orchestra, along with Year 4 taking part in the camp out. Owls are also attending the Philharmonic orchestra, year 5 will also have the option to camp out and year 6 will be going to PGL. Currently, Mrs Bevis is looking into a whole</p> |

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| | school trip to the zoo, in June 2024. Hopefully you will get information about this soon. |
| <i>-More to be done to encourage mixing year groups – especially when there is an age bias</i> | There will be some special days throughout the year where the age groups will be mixed. |
| <i>-It is not clear what level the children are working at. We need this to better support them at home.</i> | We have parent consultation evenings twice a year. Parents are given attainment information and how best to support their children. However, if you contacted your child's teacher for something specific they would be happy to help you. |
| <i>-It is frustrating that some parents consistently flout the rules especially parking rules.</i> | Unfortunately, there is little the school can do about parent's behaviour. However, polite notices are put out about the parking and driving near the school. |
| <i>- Some comments and messages put on Whatsapp groups are concerning.</i> | As a school, there is little we can do about Whatsapp groups, but what we ask is that parents are kind and considerate to all. If you are concerned, please take a screen shot and make appointment to speak with Mrs Bevis. |
| <i>- Children get applauded on a Friday for getting certificates – what about the children that don't get certificates?</i> | Every child has the opportunity to achieve and as a school, we try to make sure that certificates are given fairly and on merit. |
| <i>-Could children have a special clap that all the children can learn and when someone gives a super answer they get this clap so every child has a moment of celebration.</i> | We think this is a good idea and will explore this further. |
| <i>Could children come to school 10 minutes early and do the daily mile? Could parents join in?</i> | This is a good idea and we will explore this further but children would need to be supervised by their parents. |
| <i>An alternative to this is to come in 20 minutes early to read with their parents?</i> | This is a good idea and we will explore this further but children would need to be supervised by their parents. |

It is important to start the head girl/boy responsibilities earlier could this be reflected in every year for KS2.

All classes have children that have responsibilities/jobs and these are changed regularly so that all children get a chance to have a responsibility.

Being a head boy/girl is an Owls class right of passage.