



# Parent Survey

## Comments – October 2018

- Clubs and after school activities:
  - These clubs change every half term to provide a variety of experiences of children throughout the year. Clubs such as dance will be on offer at some point in the academic year. We have two music clubs, one for the Christmas Choir and one for Young Voices. This half term, we have 11 clubs on offer as well as our wrap-around care and for this provision, the activities change daily. Booking onto after school clubs takes place after 4pm which is a compromise for working parents. As a response, we will look into having a waiting list for the children who could not get a place.
- Homework and spellings
  - The Headteacher and SLT have recognised the need to improve homework throughout the school. This was brought up at the recent Advisory Board meeting and Coffee Chat. A working party between the Advisory Board, parents and staff will be put together to revise and have a way forward with regards to homework. Homework will continue to have a session for completion during Wrap Around Care. Currently, our homework consists of Spellings, Reading 5 times per week and Mathematics. We understand that spellings aren't always fun to learn, but repetition is one of the best ways for learning and memorising spellings patterns.
- Photos on website are very old.
  - This is something that we have scheduled to do later in the Summer Term when the lighting is better.
- Uniform.
  - We consulted with parents regarding uniform and we went with the majority. We are always very happy to discuss individual situations and needs.
  - Iron on badges are available for parents to purchase from Example to apply to old, red jumpers or cardigans.
- PE in EYFS.
  - PE in the EYFS is not just a physical activity, the curriculum states fine and gross motor skill development, which is taught consistently throughout the EYFS curriculum. However, after their transition into full time curriculum, there will be two hours of PE taught weekly which will bring them in line with PE/Games provision with the rest of the school.
- Communication – emails, texts and letter copies.
  - We recognise the amount of communication that is sent out to parents and we have addressed the amount of paper copies that are going out. As from the week commencing 29<sup>th</sup> October, all letters will go out by email unless there is a response required. Texts will continue to be sent to parents/carers as a reminder.
- Road traffic and Crossing Patrol.
  - The school's Crossing Guard is an employee of Leicestershire County Council and not an employee of Redlands. With regards to the traffic on the road, Traffic Wardens are aware and we continue to encourage safe parking in and around school in our weekly update.

- Red Card and Repeat Offenders.
  - For repeat offenders and more serious incidents, we now have Internal Seclusions set up to address this. Parents of these children have meetings with the SLT to discuss ways forward.
- Missing uniform/PE Kit.
  - We try the children to be more independent and take responsibility for their belongings. On the whole, the majority of items are returned to the rightful owner or placed in the lost property box outside.
- Modern Foreign Languages.
  - We have a new MFL Lead for the school and plans are put in place for KS2 children to learn French and have the experience of collapsed curriculum days for French.
- School pick up.
  - We would like to remind parents that the school building is from the Victorian era, when the school's population was much smaller. As you may or may not be aware, our school population has nearly doubled over the past five years and the school is accommodating this expansion. We would also like to further remind parents to be respectful of each other when collecting and dropping of their children to allow easy access to the pick-up points. If you feel the need to speak to a class teacher, parents are always welcome, please book an appointment.
- School dinners.
  - As a school, we use Food Support from Leicestershire County Council. The menus change every year and are designed with children in mind. If you have any complaints with regards to the school dinners, please contact Food Support at Leicestershire County Council.
- Classroom Assistants and staffing structure.
  - Redlands is classed as a Middle-sized school with 382 children. Each year group has two or three Teachers with at least one LSA. Due to the current financial climate in education, the budget is designed with the best interests of the children at heart. There is one Headteacher in the school, one Deputy Head and one Assistant Head who is also our SENDCo. We have reviewed the behaviour policy which promotes positivity within the classes. Every class does have time with a Learning Support Assistant. From the 2017/18 to the 2018/19 school year, we have had a low staff turn-over, when compared to other primary schools – with only 1 new teacher joining us and the creation of the ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) and FSW (Family Support Worker) roles; as well as having 2 cover supervisors, 1 sports coach and a sports apprentice.
- The school website and upcoming events.
  - Our ICT Technician works in our school twice a week and updates the website as and when necessary. At the beginning of the year, a Calendar of Events was given allowing a long notification of upcoming events. This can be found on our website and was sent out via email.
- The school gate opening times.
  - Many of you will remember the rationale behind the changing of the school gates – this was to further safeguard children being left unsupervised on the school playground from as early as 8:15am. Many parents have mentioned the queueing up on the paths outside of the school gates; as such, we would like to remind parents that it is your responsibility to ensure your child is safely brought to and from school. We ask that parents ensure the safety of their children near roads and cross only when safe, keeping your child on the side furthest from the road. If the path is not wide enough, form an orderly queue and wait patiently.

- Charging of after school clubs.
  - Schools can no longer insist on teachers running clubs after school. Any teacher who chooses to run an after school club, does so out the goodness of their heart. The school made the choice to charge for after school clubs, as the school budget was being spent on hiring specialist coaches to come in and lead the clubs. As a result, money that would have been spent on curriculum resources or building improvements, was being spent on after school clubs. I am sure that most of you would agree that we want the best for our children and by spending money that was ring-fenced for curriculum on after school clubs (that not all children attend), is not equitable for all children. The money changed for after school clubs goes towards coaching fees and resources and the school budget is now directed towards curriculum resources.
- Keeping up to date on my child's progress.
  - Following on from a Coffee Chat session last academic year, parents asked for a termly report, showing how well their child is engaging with their learning. As a result, the Headteacher and SLT have decided to put together a termly report, where teachers will inform you of your child's attitude to learning in the core areas of their education. You will receive these at the end of the Autumn 2 and Spring 2 terms. You will continue to receive your child's end of year report card t the end of Summer 2 term.
- Badly behaved children are the focus of the school and well behaved children are simply lost in the midst.
  - All 382 children are equally respected and cared for at Redlands. At times, when a child is struggling, their needs do become a priority in order to keep them and all of the other children in the school safe. However, no child is left in the midst or to 'coast'. Our curriculum is designed so that it stretches all children to achieve their potential. Children who are well behaved all the time are rewarded with a multitude of rewards (e.g. certificates, stickers, special prizes and treats, praise, etc).
- The school is well known in the local area, for all the wrong reasons.
  - We disagree with this comment, as we have had 17 children join us since the start of the academic year. Almost all of the newcomers have transferred to Redlands, choosing us as the school of choice over many other local schools. Parents who have attended out EYFS open event, praise our school for being more organised and welcoming than other schools.
- School Curriculum and Gifted and Talented Provision.
  - This year the Headteacher and SLT, re-designed the curriculum to offer a Redlands Core Offer (this was discussed at a Coffee Chat session last year, but you can also find this on the school website). In this offer, we would like our children to have: Quality of Education and Breadth of Experience and Well-Being for Future Self.
  - This year, the children are being taught all of the National Curriculum expectations through 5 half termly topics. The Spring 2 half term is only 4 weeks long and we feel that this is not enough time for a sixth topic. Instead, the children will experience a range of themed weeks over these 4 weeks, mixed in with vital revision of key learning skills in the core subjects.
  - At the start of every half term, your child should be bringing home a copy of the Curriculum Map, which identifies their learning for that half term. These can also be found on our school website. Our weekly update also has links to the Learnful videos that the children have been following, as part of their well-being and PSHE curriculum.
  - Our More Able pupils are one of the focus groups during our half termly pupil progress meetings with the Headteacher and year group teachers. The new curriculum model is designed with a 'Mastery' element. This means that all pupils are challenged to a level to extend their learning. These children also attend extra intervention groups that run throughout the school week.

- Year 6 pupils are given opportunities to attend additional revision sessions, to extend their learning in preparation for the SATS in May.
- The wall in the lower playground, by Mrs Cundy's classroom – does it have a purpose?
  - Simply put, yes it does! You may or may not be aware, but our school frequently floods. This is due to a combination of factors. First of all, the school is built on a hill and water drains off of the field and down towards to main building. Also, the school was built during the Victorian era, this means that the drains are very old and struggle to cope with the daily sewage; and when it rains, the water coming off of the field and from the roof. All of this water has to go somewhere and with such an old drainage system, some days it overflows. The wall in front of Mrs Cundy's classroom, stops the rain from entering the school building. Last year, we also had to purchase a flood gate, as we have a severe flood over the Christmas period which damaged the Y3 cloakroom and ICT suite.
- Consequences of not doing homework.
  - Homework is what it says on the tin – work to be completed at home. As mentioned above, our homework consists of spellings, reading 5 times per week and Mathletics. This is under review and we would like the input from our various stakeholders to make improvements. We value the input that parents add to their child's learning – as learning doesn't only take place between the hours of 9am and 3pm. Research suggests that children who are supported with their learning at home, tend to develop the necessary skills to be successful in later life. Perhaps consequences could be given at home, to support parents in the 'homework battle'.
- Parents Evening & Books.
  - All books should be made available for parents to view during Parents Evening. If they are not, please speak with your child's class teacher about this.
- Wrap Around Care.
  - There are a range of activities on offer at our breakfast and wrap around care club: forest school activities, quiet games, reading, music, sporting games, cooking and colouring (to name a few). Children attending the Extended Care session receive a 'light' tea – the food on offer has changed recently, to include fewer crisps and biscuits and a more substantial snack.