

## SPEEN CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs D J Nayna

June 2014

Dear Parents,

Welcome to our summer term newsletter, in particular to our new children and their families who are joining our school for the first time. We were pleased to hear some very positive feedback from the December newsletter in which we explained the fundamental roles within a Governing body. This will be further explained in our next newsletter but our principal focus this time is the parent survey.

We had a tremendous response of 97% to the in depth parent survey in the spring term, for which the governors are extremely grateful. Your feedback is critical to the planning and development of the school. The comments have already been discussed with staff and fed in to our school development plan where possible. In particular we can highlight the following:

- All parents would recommend Speen School to others with our smaller class sizes, a friendly, happy and nurturing environment and strong community atmosphere key reasons.
- All parents agreed that their children feel happy and safe at school.
- A majority of parents agreed that the school is sufficiently secure. As a result of several comments, however, relating to the gates, the Finance Committee are investigating the cost of further securing the outside gate.
- A majority of parents agreed that the classrooms are clean, tidy and attractive, providing an effective working environment for the children. Your comments regarding the kitchen have been noted and the refurbishment of that area is being expedited in readiness for the KS1 Free School Meals in September. The PTA is thanked for their generous help in financing this project.
- All parents agreed that their child was making good progress and are taught well and we have commended the teaching staff for this achievement.
- Several parents requested further comments from teachers in the home/school books. This has been discussed with staff and will be addressed.
- A majority of parents agreed that children have opportunities to learn outside of the classroom environment. However, we have noted that more can be done to inform parents of what learning is undertaken outside. Consideration will be given to more use of the storytelling area.
- A majority of parents felt they were kept informed about their child's learning and what was expected of them to continue this at home. Governors and staff, however, will continue to explore additional ways to do this and staff will ensure children always have age appropriate homework set.
- Several parents commented on the school's reward system for attendance. Governors and staff will continue to monitor this policy.
- A high majority of parents agreed that the school's Christian values and ethos have a positive effect on their child and to highlight this Mrs Nayna is in the process of drafting an explanatory document of how this is approached within the school.
- When interviewing the children during the recent pupil survey parents should note that Governors were impressed that the majority of children were confident and happy to ask for help directly from a teacher.
- Parents commented about consultation evenings and staff will consider allowing extended times to cover all topics and will ensure both parents have sufficient opportunities to see teachers.
- Staff are encouraged to hear that the weekly email from Mrs Moore is helpful and informative of future events. Parents to note a hyperlink is connected straight to the website.
- Your comments regarding the school website have been noted and parents will be pleased to learn that improvements are on going and we encourage you to take a look.
- 94% of parents understood the role of the Governors and we are delighted with that outcome.

- Governors are delighted that 94% of parents agree that the school is led and managed well.
- With the introduction of the new curriculum in September it was agreed that the Head teacher would give a talk to parents this term in response to this question to elaborate on what to expect.
- All parents agreed that the size of the school, its class sizes and the individual attention received by the children were the most significant benefits.
- Several comments were made about the uniform and governors are to discuss and revisit the uniform policy in response to this.
- A third of parents responded favourably to the provision of before and after school care to assist working parents and governors are to discuss the feasibility of offering this service.

We are also very pleased to inform you that all of our pupils are working well above their age related expectations and that a majority of year 2 children have been at year 3 levels since the beginning of this year. We are exceptionally proud of their achievements and of the dedication and hard work put in by our staff to target children's work to help them achieve their fullest potential and build a secure platform upon which to succeed at their next school.

As the introduction of KS1 Free School Meals gathers momentum for September, we would just like to emphasise the huge amount of time and effort Mrs Nayna has put into this from attending endless meetings to sourcing and appointing a contractor to refurbish the kitchen. The governors are exceptionally grateful for the commitment shown and parents are to be thanked additionally for allowing a large contributory sum from the PTA to facilitate the kitchen project. Mrs Nayna has already written to parents announcing the plans for delivery of the hot meals from Princes Risborough School and to enquire as to who would like them. We cannot emphasise enough how much help will be needed in serving and clearing up and if you can assist further please do not hesitate to speak to Mrs Moore or Mrs Nayna. Midday supervisors provide a vital support to the teaching staff during the lunch hour and we are grateful to the parents who give up time to carry out those duties.

Finally, we would really like to take this opportunity to thank parents for the huge amount of time and effort it takes in organising various events to raise funds for Speen School and other charities and for all the support you provide to the school. Notably, the excellent Safari Supper, Sports relief, the forthcoming SpeenFest and Stargazer summer ball.

Projects such as repainting of the playground, regeneration of the school pond, kitchen and library refurbishment are possible with your generous PTA donations and your time. The after school clubs including cooking, gardening and film club and Kate Laughton's music lessons and early morning yawn provide a stimulating extra curricular activity for the children for which parental involvement is hugely appreciated.

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter and we hope you have found it informative. The next newsletter will be published in the Autumn Term 2014. We welcome any suggestions for its content and any questions you would like answered within it. A reminder of our dedicated email address: [governors@speen-cofe.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:governors@speen-cofe.bucks.sch.uk)

All that remains is to wish each and every one of our parents and their families a wonderful summer and for those families moving on to new schools the very best for the future.

With very best wishes,  
On behalf of Speen School Governors

Eamonn Barrett – Chairman