



The Craylands School

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Headteacher: Mr K Hiscock

29th March 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

RE: March parent survey strengths and development areas

Many thanks to those of you who completed our short survey at parents/carers evening recently.

Please find attached the comments provided, both strengths and areas of development.

I have also responded to the suggestions made; whilst I do not have all the answers to everything now, we will continue to work on all the suggestions made.

There may also be some responses that you may not agree with, particularly around the subject of home learning, however I can assure you that there is always reasoning behind all decisions made and these are based on what we feel is right for the children of our school.

I have removed staff names from any comments made.

We will be collecting views from our parents/carers in EYFS shortly and will report on these separately.

If you ever have any other suggestions or feedback, please do not hesitate to make contact with me, as I am aware that there is always room for improvement.

Yours sincerely

Mr Hiscock
Headteacher

Strengths

- Variety of clubs and lots of interesting subjects
- Friendly helpful staff
- Focus on child's weak areas and work on them
- Extra classes for SATs
- Engaging and interacting with the children
- TA is really helping my daughter to understand maths – a great year 5.
- Keeping on top of behavioural issues
- Everything - my child is happy.
- Extra learning activities e.g. Rockstars
- Giving the children confidence in their ability to learn and challenge themselves
- No complaints and think you all doing a wonderful teaching job – big thank you for teaching my son.
- Children are well looked after and staff have good knowledge of children's personalities
- Communication with parents e.g. newsletters
- Very happy with all aspects of the learning and teaching of the school
- Accommodating my child and his needs
- Supporting child in extra help in numeracy and her well being
- Literacy, reading and speaking, keeping updated on progress and events at the school.
- Supporting with medical needs and achieving educational goals
- Reading is great
- Very engaging – keeps children's focus
- Keep up excellent work – my child's class teacher every year
- Maths
- Keeping child aware of child's progress
- Child enjoys show and tell
- Supporting students outside of school activities and achievements
- Most things – helping build confidence, communication, overall everything
- Supporting child needs in class and out of class
- Friendly approachable staff who offer help and advice
- Family, parents/carers involvement is excellent
- Really pleased yr 2 getting extra tuition – more of this after the SATS please
- Parental engagement
- Extra support before school
- In general happy with the school
- How the lessons are articulated and made fun for the kids

- Happy with all aspects of the school; teachers are friendly and approachable and child is happy and confident.
- Use of creative learning e.g. playing music – child enjoys teacher’s fun and informative teaching style
- Encouraging a variety of learning methods
- Additional classes before school
- Great communication, well organised social calendar, fun and engaging lessons/topics
- Happy with all aspects of the school
- Newsletter with info about what they are learning
- Communicating how well my child is doing
- Communication with parents
- Promptness at sorting issues should they arise
- Lessons are fun and interesting
- Keep up the good work
- Getting children involved in their subjects that they are learning
- Everything as she seems happy and great progress
- Good range of after school clubs
- Drop off
- Communication
- Keeping parents well informed through weekly newsletters
- Teaching children very well
- Encouragement of our children
- Very good support for parents
- Good engagement
- Happy with all aspects of school
- Encouraging child to have a good interest in books and education
- Our children are engaged and happy – something you do very well. Lots of activities outside of the classroom which is great.
- Excellent communication, loads on offer for children; after school activities.

Development areas

- More outdoor activities – we hope to get outside more in the last 2 terms of the year; outdoor learning is still very much on the agenda and we will continue to look at ways we can use the outside area more throughout the year.
- Trips – we try run at least two school trips for those year groups who do not have a residential. Years 3 and 5 are on a trip soon and other year groups will hopefully have a second trip before the end of the year if they have not done so yet.
- More notice regarding events, trips, charity and anything that parents need to budget for – we are trying to send out a list of events at the beginning of the term, however we are aware that some days creep up on us e.g. comic relief so we will keep trying to consider all the possible events earlier and inform you earlier.

- Class could improve on not losing children's work – I will discuss this with the class teachers.
- Communication – we feel that you we communicate well as a school; we have the weekly newsletter (many schools do not have this) send out a list of parental engagement events, send home termly reports. In order to understand what communication is needed to be improved, it would be great for a little more detail on this so we can improve in this area.
- Continuity of teaching staff for class– There is a job share in this class; one teacher works Monday to Wednesday and another works Thursday and Friday. On a Wednesday afternoon, a teacher covers the class so that the teachers can plan, prepare and assess. I feel that there is continuity in this.
- Move drop off zone gate to one by nursery; make use of KS2 playground for collection too – we will be using the KS2 playground as the KS2 numbers grow from next year. It is unlikely we will move the entrance to the drop off zone.
- Monkey bars please – currently the ground where the monkey bars once were is not firm enough to install these. We need to look at other areas in the grounds where we may be able to install these again.
- Marking and comments on home learning – lots of effort, little feedback – I agree that they should have feedback; we will look into this and improve.
- More reading mornings for older classes – we can look into increasing the frequency of these.
- Morning drop off – maybe walk on Wednesdays again or a little dance session before school starts to cut down numbers at 8.40 – the drop off zone and morning congestion continues to be a 'hot topic'. We will consider how we can ease congestion in the morning; these are great ideas but require staff to arrange which is not always possible at this time in the morning.
- More home learning maths targets – we will think about how we can offer suggestions for parents/carers for home learning; research shows that it has little impact on a child's progress. We do have times tables rockstars which we encourage the children to play on.
- Homework – clearer understanding needs to be given to parents as to what's expected – we expect the children to read on a daily basis if possible (at least 3 times lots of 10 mins per week), learn their weekly spellings, play on times tables rockstars. We also encourage the children to complete termly home learning projects.
- Streamlined approach to my child and change approach if necessary – we do everything we can to support the children on an individual basis, amending strategies and approaches as needed; please do speak to your child's class teacher if there is more you think we can do.
- Pushing a bit too hard as only year 3 – we challenge all of our children no matter what year group they are in; if you find that your child is struggling, please do speak to their class teacher.

- Ensure everyone has same paperwork sent home for projects – we must continue to work on our consistency as we are growing so that classes in the same year group receive the same paper work.
- More motivation for the always good children - we do try with team points, privilege cards, respect awards, pride awards and certificates for all those who have remained green all term. Please do suggest any other ideas you may have.
- Setting homelearning for students – times tables and spellings not enough - we will think about how we can offer suggestions for parents/carers for home learning; research shows that it has little impact on a child's progress.
- When receiving emails, letter copy if need to print something out
- Children need to drink more water during the lessons – this is something we will look further into encouraging.
- Please give homework, parents do not know what the kids are learning; they definitely need daily homework and activity. – attached to the newsletter each week is a list of what the children have been learning that week; the internet is full of games and printable activities that parents/carers could find and print out to support their child's learning at home.
- Communication between the 2 teachers – please do speak to your child's class teacher if you feel that there is something that has not been communicated.
- School parent communication – we have a weekly newsletter each week, other letters are sent out, [parental engagement event lists at the beginning of each term, Twitter....please do let us know what else you think we could do to improve communication.
- Can we widen the gate? – I have asked and we will look into whether PFI can do this for us.
- Sending parents home with worksheets that reflect in class learning to promote consistency in home/class learning – attached to the newsletter each week is a list of what the children have been learning that week; the internet is full of games and printable activities that parents/carers could find and print out to support their child's learning at home.
- A few times children have come home saying that things have happened but dinners ladies don't do anything about it – we remind all staff of the policies within the school; there are conversations between dinner ladies and staff constantly. If your child feels that they have not listened or acted, please encourage them to speak to their class teachers as well.
- Need more lunch time staff/supervision – we have a large number of mid day meal supervisors in comparison to other schools; we continue to use support staff and look to employ further mid-day meal supervisors as the school expands.
- Uniform seems to be more casual – this is a constant battle; trainers is the main issue we seem to have and we will continue to try to tighten up on this further.
- Trying to get children to think that home learning is as important as school learning –

we will look into discussing this in assemblies next term.

- Would like a copy of spellings they have got wrong so can practise – this is not always possible I'm afraid due to time constraints within the school day. Perhaps ask your child to highlight themselves which spellings they made a mistake on.
- Traffic and parking problems caused by an increase in number of students from wider area – this will continue to be an issue as we grow; we continue to work closely with the local council on ideas for improving this. The best solution would be as many people walking, cycling or using their scooter to and from school as possible.
- Always room for improvement – we agree; all Craylearners can improve!
- Maybe a fence by the kerb and drop off zone – I have asked PFI about this and await their response.
- Offer evening appointments for parents who work up London – we do this as much as we can however the days then become very long for staff who start at 7.30 in the morning often.
- Water bottles on desks to remind them to drink – we will discuss this with staff.
- Messages on the day – can they be texted or have an option for certain parents? – I will ask the office about this and provide an update.
- Be patient with him and help him out of his shell – please do share this with your child's class teacher so that they can support them as much as possible.
- Seen an improvement with the different attempts to communicate information – but there is still room for improvement. – we will certainly keep reviewing and improving where we can.
- Communication from classroom to parents – 1 child not good at relaying information on – we do our best to communicate; some children are better than others at sharing information, bringing letters home etc If your child's class teacher can help in any way please do speak to them.
- We continue to be very disappointed that the school does not support pupils with regular, consistent homework; we believe that this is vital to children's education – The education endowment foundation toolkit research suggests that primary homework is a low impact tool on improving progress; we believe that if children read, learn their tables and spellings and carry out the range of projects set, that this is enough for them to extend their learning at home. Some parents have asked me for extra work and I am always more than happy to suggest websites or find some resources.
- Providing school lunch that actually fill them up – I shall pass this onto Sodexo catering.