



Wednesday 3 September 2014

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Parent and Pupil Surveys July 2014

I am pleased to be writing to you to let you know about some of the positive feedback we have received from you through the Parent surveys which were completed online in July. As well as lots of aspects of school life where we have sustained strengths, there are many areas in which you have been pleased to see improvements over 2013-2014 which are detailed below. Of course, there are always areas to further develop too, and I would like to reassure you that as with surveys undertaken last year, we will use your feedback wisely to continue to improve our school. We have already met as a senior leadership team to begin to discuss actions following the analysis of the surveys and will continue to across the year.

Areas of school life which parents continue to evaluate as **overall strengths** can be summarised as:

Well being

- * My child is well supported at Alban Wood (97.3% agreeing)
- * My child enjoys being part of Alban Wood School (98.5% agreeing)
- * My child is happy and safe at school (97.3% agreeing)
- * My child is encouraged to be fit and healthy (97.3% agreeing)

School improvement and communication

- * Alban Wood is well led and managed (96% agreeing)
- * I am well informed about events and activities (96% agreeing). Lots of free responses commented on the success of the text message system; a system will we continue to use this year so please ensure your contact details remain the most current ones throughout the year.

Teaching and Learning

- * My child is making good or better progress (97.3% agreeing)
- * Teaching at Alban Wood is creative, inspiring and motivating (95.9% agreeing)

Your feedback also shows important improvements over 2013-2014, with particular improvements in the following aspects of school life:

***My child is encouraged to be fit and healthy (97.3%)** It is particularly encouraging to see that so many parents support this as this is an area of school life that has developed hugely over the last year. School has benefitted from extra PE funding which Miss Wells has used well to ensure a great range of clubs for all year groups across the year as well as support for teachers to ensure PE lessons are fun, challenging and get children exercising! Thank you to Miss Wells for her excellent leadership of PE. We will continue to receive PE funding for this academic year- look out for exciting club letters coming home soon!

***Teaching at Alban Wood is creative, inspiring and motivating (95.9%).** In our letter to you last year we said that we would continue to strive to be an ambitious as possible within this area. **Our main focus within 2013-2014** was to strengthen links between subject areas, to make sure that children have all the support they need to apply their Literacy, Numeracy and ICT skills in all subjects taught at Alban Wood. Pupil voice monitoring across the year has shown that this has been successful as children are now using English and Maths skills across the curriculum. Do look out for great examples of work on our 'Stars of the Week' board as there are often examples of children applying English and Maths skills during their topic learning.

Pupil surveys were also undertaken in July 2014, and your children agree with many of the positives and improvements written above; their additional feedback in relation to overall strengths of the school was as follows:



**INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE**

Silver



Silver Quality
Mark 2013/14





Our School

*I am encouraged to be fit and healthy (96.5%)

*I have friends at school (97.7%)

Teaching and Learning

*My lessons are fun and interesting (96%)

*I am taught well (100%)

*I know what I am good at (96.6%)

Our School Community

*Adults treat everyone fairly (100%)

*Our school is clean and tidy (96.5%)

Moving on to the **areas for development**, below I have identified three key themes that Mrs Kirk and I are keen to take on board, discuss with staff and ensure that plans are in place for further improvement as the year proceeds.

- **Pupil Voice.** Though 96.6% of pupils know what they are good at fewer children felt confident to identify the areas that they need to develop (89%). We began to focus on this area during Class Swap afternoon in July; children completed activities linked to the type of learner they were and began to identify next steps. Teachers have been busy with these ideas over the summer and have created 'What type of learner am I' displays which will support children to tackle learning in a range of different ways. We hope to also adapt the role of prefects this year to enable a range of pupil voice opportunities to grow across the year.
- **Teaching and Learning.** Whilst the surveys (both pupil and parent) continue to demonstrate significant strengths throughout this area, you, like us, are rightly ambitious for teaching and learning to be consistently outstanding across the curriculum at Alban Wood! Linked to the above theme, we are committed to pupils having a central role in leading their learning, such that they are interested and engaged with all that they do (currently 96% of pupils agree that their lessons are fun and interesting compared to 87% of pupils the previous year). During 2014-2015, we will continue to ensure that parents are invited to be an important part of all teaching and learning developments and in particular we hope to increase the attendance at parent workshops. This will be particularly important as we have begun to use a New National Curriculum. Thank you to those parents who were able to come to the curriculum workshop in July. Parents at this workshop heard about national changes and how our curriculum has been written exactly for Alban Wood pupils. Do look out for other curriculum workshops across the year. Also, look out for homework grids coming home over the next few weeks as this is a new homework approach for this year which should enable families to decide which activities to complete across a half term linked to your child's topic.
- **Our Governing body.** Many of you will be aware that over the last term we have had a few new governors join our team both parent and community governors. We have a full governing body ready for September! Our governors work extremely hard to support the leadership team with the strategic running of the school however we appreciate what this means exactly is a little tricky to explain! Feedback from surveys show that only half of our school community understand what governors do, a percentage we really would like to increase (49.5%). Governors met just before the summer holidays to create their annual action plan and I know sharing their roles and responsibilities with you all was high on their action plan. To see who the governors are do have a look at their photograph on the board just outside Mrs Kirk's office too!

Apologies for the long letter today, but I do hope that it is has been helpful to summarise these findings for you and give you a sense of exciting developments to come! Please do not hesitate to ask if you have any further questions or queries.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Charlotte Davis
Deputy Headteacher