



ALBAN WOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

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Mrs Rachel Kirk, Headteacher

WE VALUE: RESPECT, KINDNESS AND AMBITION

Friday 26th February 2016

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Parent and Pupil Surveys, July 2015

As we are now mid-way through the academic year we feel it is important to write to you with updates from our survey feedback. You will remember from my letter back in September that we were delighted with the number of parent surveys completed and have used the feedback from these surveys to continue to improve our school as well as to build upon strengths.

Clubs and activities

89% of parents believe that there are a broad range of clubs and activities available.

96.2% of pupils believe that they are encouraged to keep fit and healthy (83.3% all of the time!).

- As a result of your feedback we have continued to offer an **ever expanding, broad range of clubs**. To enable us to develop PE provision even further this year we were delighted to welcome Mr Mitchell to our staff team. In addition to support at playtime and lunchtime, Mr Mitchell has led football club in Y3 and Y4 this term and feedback from this club has been very positive. As we move into the summer term Mr Mitchell will lead other sports clubs and will, of course, continue to support our football team at matches and other sporting events. Parents of children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will have seen a letter this week introducing our new dance breakfast club. This club comes from feedback requesting more clubs for our youngest children – we look forward to seeing their performances soon!
- Farm club has been a great success this year and I know that our current farm club members are looking forward to meeting our new giant rabbit and new chickens on Tuesday. This half term they will help our new animals settle in and plant a range of edible plants for our animals as well as other farm related activities!
- We have also expanded to a new and exciting French club for Key Stage 2 children this year. For those of you who are new to the club, it is a lively, entertaining programme, packed with a rich variety of topics of everyday phrases and the use of pictures, songs, games, role-play and activity sheets which provide a solid foundation to build on in later years in preparation for secondary school and beyond. Each session involves some spoken and some written activities - we forward to seeing and hearing about all of the great French developments at Alban Wood over the next half term (and beyond!).
- To continue to develop our club provision, there are also plans for cookery clubs later this year. We hope that all of these clubs will continue to support children to access a broad curriculum and enable children to develop and demonstrate our school values of respect, kindness and ambition further.

Anti-bullying and learning behaviour

98.2% of parents believe that Alban Wood promotes anti-bullying and encourages excellent learning behaviour.

94.3% of pupils believe that adults and the Bully Busters promote and encourage excellent learning behaviour.

- This is a positive that we continue to build upon every year. Back in November we took part in Anti Bullying Week which was so successfully led by our Bully Busters. Thank you to all of the families who signed our anti-bullying pledge – these are now displayed as a wall around the Bully Buster's board in the corridor. Our 'wear something blue' non-school uniform during that week raised over £200 for Kidscape and helped to continue to raise awareness of bullying and cyber bullying. We also took part in Safer Internet Day earlier this month – if you didn't get a copy of the factsheets for parents please let us know.
- Within the classroom, we continue to see excellent learning behaviour every day and the introduction of Alban Wood Houses allows classes to collectively celebrate this and all members of staff award points to pupils when they see them showing kindness, ambition or respect. There will be a reward for the winning house at the end of the year – we wonder which house will win!?

Parent workshops

98.2% of parents believe that this school helps me to support my child to learn.

98.2% of parents believe that Alban Wood gives parents/carers a clear indication of what is taught and how.

- Feedback in relation to workshops this year continues to be positive and they have focused on transition (transition from Reception to Year 1 and transition from Year 2 to Year 3). These workshops were well attended and going forward we will continue to run workshops which target specific year groups. The workshops for this term are:
Changes to SATs testing for Year 6 on Tuesday 1st March, 9am
Changes to SATs testing for Year 2 on Tuesday 8th March, 9am
Workshops for next term will focus on the computing curriculum – more information to follow later this term.
- In addition to workshops, we would like to hold a coffee morning this term. This will be an informal cake and coffee





- morning but will also give parents the chance to look at our reviewed home-school policy agreement. A number of governors hope to also be at the coffee morning as they are always keen to meet with parents – please do pop along for a coffee, cake and chat on **Friday 11th March at 9am.**

Topic learning and the wider curriculum

97.4% of pupils say that they enjoyed topic learning last year.

98.7% of pupils say that learning at Alban Wood is interesting and fun.

- This continues to be a real strength at Alban Wood and Mrs Kirk and I always feel a real buzz when we pop into topic lessons. This term Year 1 and Year 2 are learning about significant people, Year 3 and Year 4 are learning about the Vikings and look forward to their Viking workshop later this term whilst Year 5 and 6 are fully immersed in World War Two learning. Shared topic displays continue to show lots of excellent home and school learning and we thank parents for their continued support with homework – please do pop in and have a look at these shared displays when you are in and around school. The quality of writing in topic learning and application of maths skills within topic learning has been an area of focus this year and Mrs Kirk and I are delighted with the quality of excellent topic writing in all groups.
- To continue to support our exciting English curriculum we will be celebrating **World Book Day next week (Thursday 3rd March) with an author visit. James Campbell** will visit for the day and work with Reception to Year 6 across the day – he hopes to inspire them with his storytelling and further develop their creative writing skills. As James is a published author he is able to sell his books before or after the day and will sign them for pupils. If you would like to order a copy of one (or more of his books) please see the attached order form. Please look out on our Facebook page for pictures from the day!
- In addition to topic learning we are delighted with the quality of learning during Art and Design Technology lessons this year. We were all inspired earlier this year with an Art INSET and it is always lovely to walk past our Alban Wood Art Gallery to see progression in art learning across the school – please do have a look at the artwork in the reception area when you are next in school as it's really great! During a recent visit from our Hertfordshire School Improvement Partner she commented on the quality of learning within sketch books too.

Pupil voice and responsibilities

98.1% of pupils said there are pupil voice opportunities within their class.

- This is an area of school life that continues to grow and grow at Alban Wood. Mrs Kirk and I often get letters from pupils requesting new and exciting projects!
- Earlier this year a group of pupils presented at a Governors meeting, speaking confidently about pupil voice at Alban Wood. They were able to answer questions and governors were incredibly impressed by the range of opportunities they presented as well as their excellent communication skills. In addition to this a group of children (our School Council) visited the Houses of Parliament back in January and led a whole school assembly entitled 'The Trip of a Lifetime' upon their return.
- Finally, within the classroom this year children are taking on more and more responsibilities with the termly eco and school council elections, farm monitors, prefects, bully busters, playground buddies and more!

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 some of the developments that have taken place this year so far in relation to survey feedback! Please do not hesitate to ask if you have any further questions or queries.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Charlotte Davis
Deputy Headteacher



James Campbell Author Visit

James is an author, storyteller and a comedian.

James' Boyface books are available in all the usual bookshops and online places but he is very happy to send us books direct which can be signed by him and dedicated to your child. Hopefully this will help cement the experience of meeting a real author and inspire our children to write for themselves.

There are currently four Boyface books, published by Hachette Children's Books.

There were written in a certain order but you don't necessarily have to read them in that order. Most people start with the first one but it is quite possible to read them out of sequence. They will still make sense!

The order is:

- 1 – Boyface and the Quantum Chromatic Disruption Machine
- 2 – Boyface and the Tartan Badger
- 3 – Boyface and the Uncertain Ponies
- 4 – Boyface and the Power of Three And A Bit

The books all cost £5.99 and are aimed at Y2, Y3, Y4 and Y5. However, Y6 seem to like them too and Y1 and Reception can enjoy them with a bit of help.

There is also an audio book available which is aimed squarely at Reception, Y1 and Y2. This is a book to listen on CD and includes The Umbrella Tree which James performed as part of his visit.

Please make all cheques payable to “Neapolitan Theatre” and return them with this form to the school.