



Thursday 26th October 2023

Parent Survey Response

Dear Parents/Carers,

At the end of last term, we asked you to take the time to complete our parent survey and would like to thank you once again for your valuable contributions. Our school vision of 'Learning for all, caring for each other, preparing for the future' was reflected clearly through many of the thoughtful comments made about our school's strengths:

'We're proud of the school every day. We are a good community who achieve great things.'

'Overall the school is absolutely great and I struggle to think of (if any) negatives. Our son really struggled at the start of the year, but the dedication and encouragement of his teacher who thought of creative solutions, helped him come through the other side. I asked our son what he thought of the school and he replied 'the teachers are kind', which I 100% thinks shines through. From what our son says, the lessons seem to be very engaging and he tells us interesting things he's learnt. From a parents perspective, it really appears the school underpins it's values through the children's journeys at school.'

'An all-round solid education from obviously caring and motivated staff'

'Your people! Every single teacher my children have had were amazing and really reflect the school's values. I feel really lucky that my children go to St Oswald's'

It was especially encouraging to see that our parent community view our strengths as being: our compassionate staff; the high quality of teaching and learning; the richness of curriculum and activities on offer and the positive communication between school and home.

Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
My child is happy at this school	62% (31 entries)	36% (18 entries)	2% (1 entry)	0%	0%
My child feels safe at this school	64% (32 entries)	32% (16 entries)	2% (1 entry)	0%	2% (1 entry)
I would recommend St Oswald's CE Primary School to another parent	64% (32 entries)	30% (15 entries)	2% (1 entry)	0%	4% 2% (2 entries)

Listening to your views has been a vital part of our reflection and development cycle for this academic year. They have helped us to shape our development plan and school priorities for the year ahead, and we have already been able to address some of them. Although we are unable to implement all suggestions, we have identified some key areas for development and areas of our practice that can be refined to strengthen our home-school relationship.

The following statements came out as the prominent school development areas from parent feedback:

Statement	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	N/A
Communication from the school is effective and timely	10% (5 entries)	66% (33 entries)	16% (8 entries)	6% (3 entries)	2% (1 entry)	
My child receives the right amount of homework	20% (10 entries)	48% (24 entries)	18% (9 entries)	4% (2 entries)	10% (5 entries)	

In addition to these, the individual comments have been looked at, analysed and will be acted upon where possible in the near future.

Please see below an overview of the future plans at St. Oswald's:

Communication

You said:

Although the improvements in communication were noted as improving, there are still areas to further develop with communication. This included further notice for key dates to allow for preparation and more twitter/Seesaw updates.

We will:

How and when we share messages through school has been reviewed for Autumn term. As we enter this academic year, you can expect:

1. **Whole school updates** - Headteacher Newsletters – a half-termly update including key information, school events and upcoming diary dates.
2. **Whole school information** - School website – General information only including term dates, uniform and admin.
3. **Whole school and phase events** - Twitter (X) - We have a school Twitter feed that we invite you to follow. We have become much more proactive at keeping this updated weekly and would love for you to share our news and updates. You can find us at [@stoswaldsyork](https://twitter.com/stoswaldsyork). Each phase will strive to post regularly and evenly across school based on events in each class.
4. **Special events** – Letters – Letters will only be sent home when informing you of a one-off event that may need a parental signature. Following your feedback, we will aim to publish an email notification of the letter too.
5. **Phase updates** - Seesaw Newsletters – From half term, each phase will post a newsletter fortnightly to update you on what we have been learning. There will also be reminders of upcoming events.
6. **Day-to-day reminders** – ParentPay – Event reminders will be given via ParentPay emails for key school events.

Don't forget, you can always speak to class teachers at the start and end of the school day. Our teachers are pleased to offer an open-door policy. Your child's class teacher and Mrs Dunne/Mr Barker are available every morning at the cloakroom doors before school for a brief chat. Teachers will also be happy to speak with you at the end of the day at their cloakroom door, once children have been released to parents. Appointments or emails can also be arranged/sent for any further discussions.

School Events

You said:

There was a wide variety of school events. However, you would like notice when your child is receiving an Oswald Award, clearer voices during celebration collective worship and a shorter collective worship. You also would like Sports Day to be more competitive for KS2 and for us to utilise the local area more.

We will:

Following your feedback, we will:

- Aim to inform you every **Thursday** evening via email if your child is going to receive that week's Oswald Award. As teachers choose these weekly, we cannot inform you prior to this.
- Continue to ensure that we are welcoming parents/carers and making a conscious effort to announce awards clearly to ensure everyone can hear.
- The awarding of Owl Stamp Cards has been reviewed and milestones (bronze, silver, gold) will be celebrated in a separate sharing assembly throughout the term.
- Reflect on Sports Day in KS2. As we approach the Summer term, we will review what worked well and what needs adapting for the following year.
- Become more involved in wider sports opportunities – as you may have seen already this year.
- We are developing our '50 things to do at St O's' which will enrich the children's learning and their understanding of our wonderful city.

Homework

You said:

Homework levels were not always consistent and, on occasion, the amount of homework differed between too much or too little.

We will:

Following your feedback regarding homework, we have reviewed our homework policy and our homework guidelines stands at:

Foundation Stage

- In Reception:
 - Weekly phonics home learning is sent home as a paper copy.
 - Further activities, such as practical Maths activities, are shared via Seesaw.

Key Stage One (Years 1 and 2)

- In Key Stage 1:
 - Weekly phonics home learning is sent home as a paper copy.
 - Y2 spellings are sent home in planners from autumn half term.
 - Further activities, such as practical Maths activities, are shared via Seesaw.

Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4)

- In Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4):
 - Weekly spellings are sent home in planners.
 - Weekly Maths homework is sent as a paper copy in children's Maths folders.
 - A termly home learning project will be set linked to the topic of study.

Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5 and 6)

- In Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5 and 6):
 - Weekly spellings are sent home in planners.
 - Weekly Maths homework is currently sent as a paper copy in children's Maths homework books. After half term, we will be trialling a maths programme called Mathematics for homework tasks. We will gather feedback at the end of this period to see which method is preferred by pupils and parents.
 - Weekly SPAG homework is sent as a paper copy in children's SPAG homework books.
 - A half-termly home learning project will be set linked to the topic of study.

Thank you for your support and feedback in the summer parent survey. As the year progresses, we will be sending out a further survey to receive your opinions and act on feedback to make St Oswald's the best it can be!

Your sincerely,

Mrs Jemma Dunne, Headteacher
Mr James Barker, Deputy Headteacher



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