



# Southwick School's Newsletter

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2016

This term's Christian Value - Hope



Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

Just before half term, I received the copies of the questionnaires from governors, which you filled in recently. I am pleased to say that the results of the questionnaire were very positive and have been shared with staff.

We asked you for your comments /suggestions as to what we could improve (we are pleased to say there were very few) which we have shared and responded to below.

- 1. More than one school trip a year/more visitors** – Recently, we have limited trips to one a year, due to rising costs, as we feel it is unreasonable to keep asking parents for money. Any shortfalls from the voluntary contributions made by parents have to be made up from the school budget and in the past, we have had to cancel trips as we could not afford to run them. We have tried to overcome this by providing other experiences for the children e.g. inviting theatre groups or visitors into school with the support of funding from the PTA. We will continue to look into other alternatives to see if we can find other, less expensive links to learning.
- 2. Wider range of sports clubs/ clubs other than sport** – All of our sports clubs are led by Active Trowbridge and change termly. We also have a Sewing Club, Gardening Club, Book Club and Chess Club (which are mainly led by volunteers or staff) which run throughout the year. It is difficult for staff to lead clubs after school due to their other commitments e.g. staff meetings, attendance at Learning Communities, training not to mention marking and preparation!. We have asked for suggestions for other clubs at Parents Evening and will share these with the School Council/Class Council to see if we can offer more (though there may be a cost involved).
- 3. Using Facebook to communicate everyday news** – This is something we aim to get much better at! We have had a number of technology issues to overcome and we think that we are almost there. We are aiming for at least weekly updates...watch this space.
- 4. School Meals** –We would love to be able to provide more choices on the menu however our cook caters for a number of children with a range of different dietary needs and as we produce our own meals on site and have a limited budget (and limited working hours) this sometimes proves very difficult. Our cook is constantly looking for ways to improve her menus and always provides healthy alternatives to puddings. I will pass on the individual comments for her to consider.

### **5. Spread things out across the school year**

Unfortunately the end of the summer term was a little bit cramped and although we try to spread things out this is sometimes difficult to achieve. For example, Parents Evenings and Sports Day were planned in from the start of the academic year as parents have requested that we share these dates well in advance. We had planned for French Day to happen in the Autumn Term but as Mrs Sandberg was leaving the school, she wanted to 'show off' what the children had been working on. We will try very hard to spread things out this year.

**6. Take more advantage of local companies e.g. to sponsor events, provide equipment and provide learning experiences** – We have tried to liaise with a number of local companies to do just this but with little success as the recession is affecting everyone (the PTA have also reported that fewer companies are able to supply raffle prizes). If you work for a local company who could support the school in any way, we would love to hear from you. We are currently looking a little further afield and are planning a trip for Y6 with Apple!

I hope you found the feedback useful – we certainly did – and if you have further comments or ideas don't forget that you can let us know on [feedback@southwick.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:feedback@southwick.wilts.sch.uk).

Lesley Shellard