

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL



Sonning Common Primary School
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Governors End of Year Newsletter

'A welcoming place with amazing people...'

'Teachers - nah! Superheroes more like!'

'You will never stop climbing...and you will find others to help you on your journey...'

These are just some of the fabulous quotes from our wonderful year 6 pupils who were asked to give their reflections on SCPS. We think they sum up our school perfectly and we would like to thank them all for being a part of our school community and we wish them all the very best in their new schools.

As we conclude another year of COVID disruption we would also like to thank our 'Superheroes' and all the staff at SCPS for everything they have done this year. The demands placed on them have increased further and yet again Chris and the team have risen to the challenge and have gone over and above what is required of them. As governors we have been blown away by the care and dedication that has gone into responding to the ever changing requirements and most importantly ensuring that the children have a safe and nurturing place to learn.

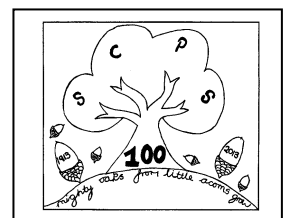
Despite the challenges faced, we are pleased to report that the school continues to go from strength to strength. Pupil numbers are increasing further and we have just approved a balanced three year budget which has allowed the leadership team to revisit its plan to ensure we are investing in the right areas. We will be welcoming some new teaching staff in September and there will be some new initiatives rolled out to further support the children including further investment in Maths and SEND provision.

There is however always room for improvement and we have recently concluded the annual parent, staff and pupil surveys and we have been reviewing these to see what needs to be incorporated into the overall school improvement plan.

Thank you to those who completed the parent survey. On the whole we had a very positive response with some of the key themes as follows:

- 89% of parents/ carers agree that the school has high expectations of staff and pupils
- 96% of parents/ carers agree that pupils and teachers respect each other
- 94% of parents/ carers agree that the values of the school contribute to the education of the children
- 94% of parents are happy to approach staff if there is a problem.

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There are however some areas where the school would like to improve. One of these is the reward system. Whilst most parents believe the school rewards achievement well, 13% did not agree with this statement. As a result, the school will revisit the behaviour policy and the rewards system over the next academic year.

In addition, whilst communication has been improved, there is still more that could be done. There were also some comments in relation to ease of communication with teachers with recognition that COVID has not helped this and also some requests for more class specific updates to be posted to the website. We are hopeful that easing of restrictions will make this all a bit easier however communication will continue to be a focus and the Governing Board are currently designing a new communications plan that will lay the foundations.

The Governing Board would also like to thank the PTA who have continued to raise funds through lockdown. Everyone is very excited about the new outdoor shelter which will be built very soon. This will make a real difference to the children and will allow for more outside learning opportunities.

In our last communication, we explained that we had been revisiting the Mission and Vision for the school and we were hoping to formally launch it this year. COVID has unfortunately delayed this however, we are hopeful we will be able to share more on this in the Autumn term. Finally, we would like to thank you all for your ongoing support and wish you all a wonderful summer break.

SCPS Governors

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