



Croft Church of England Primary School

South Parade

Croft on Tees

Darlington

DL2 2SP

Tel: 01325 720528

E-mail: admin@croft.n-yorks.sch.uk

Website: croftprimarieschool.org

Head Teacher: Mr Simon Robson

June 2017

Dear Parents/ Carers

SUMMARY OF PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES JANUARY/ FEBRUARY 2017 AND GOVERNING BODY NEWSLETTER SPRING 2017

For your information the school governors are:

Alison Russell (LA Governor) (Chair), **Georgie Sale** (Associate Governor) (Vice Chair School Improvement), **Michelle Patterson** (Parent Governor) (Vice Chair Resources), **Denise Wilson Bainbridge** (Parent Governor), **Paul Knapp** (Parent Governor), **Derek Blenkarn** (Co-Opted Governor) (Safeguarding Governor), **Viv Waugh** (Foundation Governor), **Jean Evans** (Associate Governor), **Gemma McManus** (Staff Governor) and **Simon Robson** (Head Teacher).

We welcomed **Mrs Kath Jones** (Associate Governor) to the board this term. Mrs Jones is a Youth Worker with the Village Seeds Project. She leads Discoverers Club in school and Collective Worship on a weekly basis.

Susan Thornton has stepped down from her role as Parent Governor at Easter. We would like to thank her for her support and contribution to the Governing Body over the years.

We will be holding parent governor elections soon. If any parent is interested please let Mrs Dent, Mr Robson or myself know as soon as possible. Full details will be sent out in a letter.

Other than regularly reviewing the standards in school, progress towards priorities on the School Improvement Plan, many policies and the school budget this term we have:

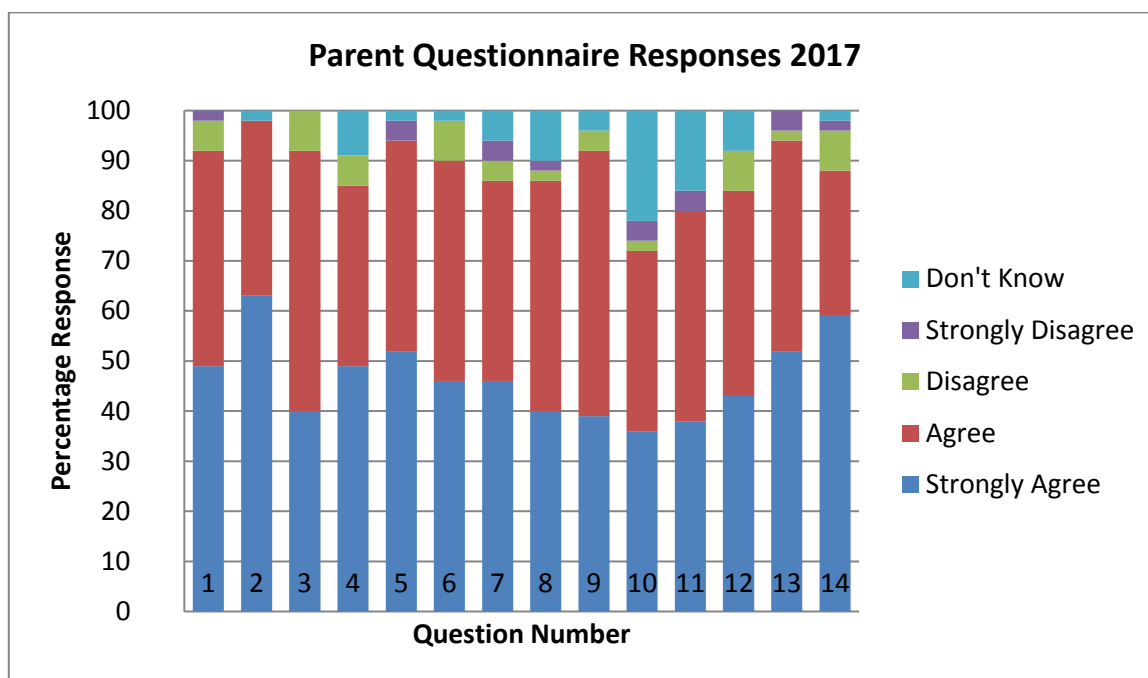
- Discussed the taking of photographs at school events, the use of images and our duty to safeguard our pupils and staff – the result of this has been shared with parents
- Agreed to reduce the Out of School Club Holiday Fees to make it more affordable for parents and hopefully increase attendance.
- Agreed to offer the free 30 hour childcare entitlement in the Summer Term and beyond
- Made many monitoring visits into school
- Undergone training and shared reports from School Improvement Partners
- Evaluated your responses to the parent questionnaire - which are attached – see below

We are currently evaluating our own effectiveness against the new Governor Competencies Framework and arrange training to ensure that we meet the challenges of the role.

Thank you for responding to our parent questionnaire.



We received a total of 48 responses. These have been summarised as a percentage in the bar chart and the table overleaf.



		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
1	My child enjoys school.	49%	43%	6%	2%	0%
2	The school keeps my child safe.	61%	35%	0%	0%	2%
3	The school informs me about my child's progress.	39%	51%	8%	0%	2%
4	My child is making enough progress at this school.	47%	35%	6%	0%	8%
5	The teaching is good at this school.	51%	41%	0%	4%	2%
6	The school helps me to support my child's learning.	45%	43%	8%	0%	2%
7	The school helps my child to have a healthy lifestyle.	45%	39%	4%	4%	6%
8	The school makes sure my child is well prepared for the future (for example changing year group, class or school at the end of Year 6)	39%	45%	2%	2%	10%
9	This school meets my child's particular needs.	39%	53%	4%	0%	4%
10	The school deals effectively with unacceptable behaviour.	35%	35%	2%	4%	22%
11	The school takes account of my suggestions and concerns.	37%	41%	0%	4%	16%
12	The school is led and managed effectively.	43%	41%	8%	0%	8%
13	Overall I am happy with my child's experience at this school.	51%	41%	2%	4%	0%
14	Would you recommend this school to another parent?	58%	29%	8%	2%	2%

These are just a few of your positive comments – Thank You

Teaching staff are amazing, giving above and beyond and ensuring that the children get the best education they are capable of offering – well done.

As it is a small school staff know the children well. Lots of opportunities to attend the school for celebrations and to see the children's work. Having the opportunity to speak to teachers on the playground at home time is very useful.

Excellent teachers and a great community feel about the school and staff.

Supportive, caring environment with focus on Christian values and pastoral care, encouragement and recognition/praise of achievements, inclusive and accepting.

It is a caring school and all staff and pupils welcomed my daughter into the school. Good values are taught.

It is a nice friendly school with very nice helpful teachers and all staff.

It is a friendly happy school with well mannered, kind children.

Friendly, professional, pro-active

Extra-curricular activities provide good wider development opportunities, great teaching standards.

Small size, excellent area, excellent teacher-pupil relationships, great grounds, superb staff, motivated and forward thinking head, supportive parents.

Hard working, enthusiastic, committed staff. I often see the headteacher to speak to or on the yard speaking with other parents and greeting them at the beginning of the day – I think this makes him welcoming to parents. A positive all-inclusive attitude to children of all abilities, this is reflected through the children's interactions with each other.

Christian ethos, encouraging good morals. Staff are caring, dedicated and approachable.

The staff in out of school club are lovely, our children love going there.

Safe environment, good standard of teaching, caring attitude to pupils, Christian Values through whole school.

The Christian focus on values. Individuals allowed to be individuals, they don't need to conform to a certain personality. Great leadership from the head and also the individual class teachers.

Great staff, great teaching and very friendly.

Teachers are great. As a parent I feel included in my child's education.

The behaviour of the children, lots of praise such as the WOW wall, star of the day etc. Also the children are doing really well academically too!

The table below summarises some areas of concern and what we will do to respond to them.

What parents have said	What we do now and what we will do as a result of what you have said.
More regular feedback regarding progress. To be informed sooner if their child is having difficulties and more information on how to support their child at home.	We currently have two parents' evenings, one in the Autumn Term and one in the Spring Term. Parents are given a short report card to summarise their child's progress at these meetings. Parents receive a full written report in the summer with the option to come into school to discuss it if they wish. In addition staff hold information evenings to keep parents up to date with the curriculum and assessment. We will introduce an additional written progress report at the end of the Autumn and Spring terms to update parents on their

	<p>child's progress in English and mathematics. If your child seems to be having difficulty, for example with an aspect of their learning, a member of staff will contact you and arrange a meeting to discuss how they can work in partnership with you to support your child.</p>
<p>What are we doing to prepare for Ofsted as it was a long time ago?</p>	<p>We have been working very hard to meet the new very much higher standards required by Ofsted, to meet the much higher expectations required of all children and new assessment arrangements. This has required a few changes but most of these are now in place.</p> <p>We will continue to review our progress regularly to meet these challenges and feedback from parents is invaluable in this process.</p>
<p>Would like more educational visits.</p>	<p>We have one educational visit or visitor into school per class each term. As a small rural school we are geographically quite isolated from places we would like to visit and this has an impact on cost. We need to keep this affordable for all parents and therefore staff choose visits which are high quality learning experiences. We have arranged for some excellent visitors into school and we will continue to look at all options. We have introduced school enterprise days and funds raised from these events are used to subsidise educational visits and other WOW experiences.</p>
<p>Would prefer more notice re trips/events/equipment needed.</p>	<p>We acknowledge this does cause some problems and we are working hard to resolve this. Sometimes we are given very little notice ourselves. We are now putting planned PE activities and competitions in the school newsletter and there PE newsletter produced each term to keep parents better informed.</p> <p>We will be sending letters out via email so that they get home faster.</p>
<p>Not sure offering cakes etc. at lunchtime every day encourages a healthy lifestyle</p>	<p>Our school meals are nutritionally analysed to ensure a healthy diet and now incorporate many more vegetables and fruit than before (sometimes hidden)!</p> <p>We will be reviewing our Whole School Food Policies in the near future and we will consult with parents when we do.</p>
<p>Concern that changes are communicated post-decision and therefore parent comments, which are stated as being welcomed, are of no consequence.</p>	<p>We do consider all parents' comments when making decisions. Sometimes we need to go with a majority if opinion is divided.</p> <p>We will set up a parent group next term where parents can come and discuss with staff and Governors any issues or policy changes.</p> <p>PLEASE REMEMBER Mr Robson welcomes parents and carers to come in and talk to him about any issues you may have.</p>
<p>More PE, sporting activities, particularly for those who are not part of teams and more extracurricular activities for younger children too.</p>	<p>Currently all children access 2 hours each week timetabled PE in a variety of different activities. The timetable is included in the weekly newsletter.</p> <p>A PE Newsletter is issued each term.</p> <p>This year we have introduced a specialist sports coach on a weekly basis at lunchtime to work with all children in a variety of physical activities. Mrs Marksby does an excellent job in continuing this programme of activities throughout the week. Our Play Leaders encourage all children to become involved. Lunchtime activities are accessible to all children.</p> <p>A variety of other Clubs such as Netball, Cross Country, Cricket and Football run at different times of the year</p> <p>We continue to offer our very successful Discoverers Club led by Mrs Jones (pupils from Y1 upwards can attend) and Karate on</p>

	<p>Fridays. More activities are planned for the future through Simon Carson Sports School.</p> <p>We would like to offer more and are looking into additional activities and sports clubs.</p> <p>We would welcome any assistance with Clubs and if any parents have any skills or talents and would be prepared to help with or run a club we would love to hear from you.</p>
Concerns over the target user for the school's Twitter account.	Our Twitter feed is for parents. Our aim is to provide information on what is happening in school. Online Safety is of the highest priority in school.
Better outdoor learning areas.	We have wonderful grounds around school and a superb Early Years outdoor area. We recognise that we can do more to develop this and are looking at ways of doing so and grants which will fund this.
Traffic management	<p>Traffic is always a problem here as it is for most schools. We have requested the support of the local Police. They will be doing spot checks.</p> <p>Children are now able to come into school from 8.50am which has helped somewhat. We strongly encourage parents to park at the Croft Hotel or Village Hall to ease congestion. We rely on parents to park with due regard to pupil safety and the needs of the local community.</p> <p>If anyone has any other suggestions please let us know.</p>
Would like to see some improvements in pastoral care	<p>All staff are available to talk through parental concerns. The pastoral care and safety of children is our highest priority.</p> <p>We have introduced Drawing and Talking, Time to Talk and Socially Speaking in school and staff have received training. We also have a selection of resources and leaflets for parents in school to help direct parents to local services and use in particular times of need.</p>
Separate boy/girl changing facilities	This has been actioned as a result of your comments.
<p>School Meals</p> <p>Choice. Time to eat meals.</p>	<p>We have taken up the issue of choice with County Caterers and have changed menus accordingly. We are introducing a pre-ordering system from September 2017 and this will be trialled before the end of this term. Children are not hurried to eat their meals and we try to maximise the time children have to eat. We will continue to offer parents the opportunity to come into school and try school meals after receiving excellent feedback.</p>

The Governors have taken note of everyone's comments and suggestions. We thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.

There is a lot of information about the Governing Body on the school website croftprimaryschool.org. Your comments are always welcome; my e mail address is CofG@coft.n-yorks.sch.uk

Yours faithfully

Alison Russell

Alison Russell
Chair of Governors

Simon Robson

Simon Robson
Head Teacher