

Low Ash Primary School

October 2018 Newsletter

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We asked... You said... We listened

Thank you for all those who completed the July 2018 online questionnaire which asked for your thoughts on what we do well and, importantly, how we could improve further.

We had over 50 responses in total, with around 35 positive comments – thank you. However, we were especially interested in your comments with things you felt we needed to get better at. So, here are some of the things we have changed so far and can comment on...

Parliamentary Review

You said...	What we have done...
'Different types of clubs for Key Stage 2 children. Most of the clubs for Key Stage 2 are sports related.'	For something different, this year we are introducing: Forest Schools, Fencing, Shakespeare, and Taekwondo. We also have Lego Robotics and a KS2 Quiz club. At lunchtimes there will be a new Book Club for Year 3 and a new Sewing and Crafts Club. We will also be continuing with Reception Yoga sessions on Thursday mornings until Christmas. In Key Stage 1 we have a Year 1 and 2 Art Club.
'Communication can be improved, things seem to come at the last minute all the time and for working parents that's very difficult.' (several comments on this topic)	Staff made aware of concerns at staff meeting on 26th September, and agreed to inform parents of events as soon as possible. Senior Leaders are looking into adding an events diary for parents on the website which would include events right throughout the year.
'In sports, opportunity should be given to more children to compete. It usually appears to be the same children being chosen to compete and represent the school.'	Mr Renardson and Miss Broadbent (PE Leader) have been made aware of the comment. We will continue to enter as many teams as we can in local competitions. In previous years we have entered up to 3 teams for some competitions. We are also looking into games against local schools in addition to competitions – this should help.
'Less homework.'	We reduced the amount of written homework that we expect in January 2018. Improving reading is a big focus for Low Ash in 2018-19, but we will consider making further changes.
1. 'More opportunities (rather than just parents evening) to feedback on child progress and maybe provide steps/more active opportunity to challenge or help the child achieve their potential or provide stronger support to them where needed.' 2. 'Also with the schools plans to expand maybe closer focus on setting child champions where younger pupils feel more at ease at school.'	1. We have continued with the 'Curriculum Open Evenings' in September. Last year we only sent one 'Next Steps' advice letter home (January); the ice and snow we had in March led to a later parents' evening, which replaced the normal March 'next steps' letter. This year we will send both advice letters. With Parents' Evenings included, there should be 5 opportunities between September and Easter to access information/advice. Anything more urgent? As always, additional meetings with class teachers can be arranged. 2. We have introduced 'Reading Leaders' this year, where Year 6 and children from Year 1, 2 and 3 meet, play reading games and read together.
There is a big emphasis on raising funds for the school which can be hard on some families.	We understand this and only ever ask for voluntary contributions. Hopefully, the new minibuses will help reduce costs to parents.



You may recall that, because of our successes of late, we were approached to be included in the 2018 Parliamentary Review for Yorkshire and Humberside. The Parliamentary Review is a guide to showcase best practice in education (and industry), and details how schools and businesses have responded to overcome challenges and ‘turn things around’ in their particular sector. I’m proud to announce that the 2018 Review is now available. If you would like a copy, please ask at the school office (we are on pages 25, 26 and 27). Alternatively, follow the link www.theparliamentaryreview.co.uk/editions/primary-education , click on the ‘select a publication’ tab (on right), select ‘Primary Education: Yorkshire and Humber’.

New School Council

All classes took part in our Polling Day event on September 25th to decide who would represent each class on the School Council this year. Well done to the successful candidates...

Year 1 - Meysam N and Holly W-E

Year 2 - Violet O-W and Henry L

Year 3 - Freya T and Lowen T

Year 4 - Saffie E and Alex B

Year 5 - Marshall W and Harmony T

Year 6 - Grace W and Alicia C

Mia N and Rhys F from Year 6 will also be the ‘voice’ for children in Nursery and Reception.

The new School Council will soon be discussing various suggestions from classes regarding improving things in school.

Christmas Fair

The Christmas Fair will be held on **Friday 30th November from 3.30pm.**

Lots of stalls, refreshments and, of course, Santa Claus!



Holiday Dates for September 2019 to July 2020

The dates for 2019-20 have now been agreed by Governors and will be sent out in the next day or two. The dates will also be made available on the school website.

Consultation/Parents’ Evenings

A reminder that these take place on Wednesday 7th November (3.30 to 5.30) and Thursday 8th November (3.30 to 7.00). As mentioned in the last newsletter, the online booking system to book a 10 minute consultation opened on 11th October. Just click on the  icon on the Home Page of the School Website.



Expansion of Low Ash Primary

A reminder that there is a **Public Drop-in Session** on Tuesday October 30th from 3pm to 7pm in the school hall. This is your chance to informally meet and talk to representatives of the **Council Project Team** as well as view the proposed building plans.

Views and comments from the event will be taken into consideration prior to submission of planning permission.

Events Coming Up

Monday 29th October	Return to school from holidays
Wednesday 7 th November	Nursery and Reception Parents Workshop – Phonics/Reading
Monday 17 th December @ 6.30pm	Key Stage 2 ‘Carols by Candlelight’ event at St Cuthbert’s Church



Have a great half term holiday when it comes.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr Terry Woollin