

EASTCOTE PRIMARY ACADEMY

Principals Newsletter No.68

27/4/18

Here are the results of the recent survey we undertook with parents:

Parental Survey March 2018						
	Strongly Agree %	Agree %	Disagree %	Strongly Disagree %	Total Agree %	Total Disagree %
My child is happy at this school.	72	28	0	0	100	0
My child feels safe at school.	73	27	0	0	100	0
My child makes good progress at school.	50	47	3	0	97	3
My child is well looked after at school.	66	34	0	0	100	0
My child is taught well at school.	60	40	0	0	100	0
My child receives appropriate homework for their age.	38	40	17	5	78	22
The school makes sure that its pupils are well behaved.	61	39	0	0	100	0
The school deals effectively with bullying.	53	42	5	0	95	0
The school is well led and managed.	58	39	3	0	97	3
The school responds well to any concerns raised.	51	44	5	0	100	0
I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress.	44	48	7	1	92	8
Would you recommend this school to another parent?	Y	100*	N	0		

There were 85 forms returned.

*There was one response of "maybe".

I knew that the statement that would bring about the highest level of disagreement would be the one regarding homework. Comments from a number of parents were mainly about wanting more homework and regular weekly homework, so I thought it was worth revisiting why I changed the policy.

What is the evidence that homework for primary aged children is actually of any benefit? It is very difficult to find. In fact the biggest survey into research on homework for all ages of children says that the net beneficial effect is small. However, there is a significant finding that emerges with the research which is that the benefit increases as children get older and for the younger children (primary age) the benefit disappears – and there is evidence that it might actually be harmful.

Arguments in favour of homework for primary aged children tend not to have any good research backing them. For example, it may seem to be a good argument that doing regular homework prepares children for secondary school but I can find no supporting evidence. In fact even one of the leading pro-homework researchers does not see it as beneficial until children reach 14-15.

The issue seems to be that developmentally, primary aged children are simply not ready to benefit from homework.

The big exception is reading, which is why I would far rather a child spent time reading rather than filling in English or maths worksheets.

If anyone is interested I would be more than happy to point them to some of the books that have been written on this subject which make use of the evidence.

There were many other useful comments made which we are looking at to see if we can implement improvements however, the homework issue was the only one emerging as a consistent theme.

SATs

Our year 2 and year 6 children will soon be taking their SATs tests. Whilst the year 2 tests are spread out over several weeks and assessed internally, the year 6 children have to take formal tests in maths (three separate tests), reading comprehension and Grammar, Punctuation, Spelling. Writing is assessed internally but moderated with other schools.

The test week (14th – 18th May) is quite intense, but once it is over the year 6 curriculum can diversify into many of the subjects that may not have had as much time as the core subjects, for example, Art, DT, Music, Drama. It is also a time to enjoy plenty of sport and for those going on our school journey to Carrot Wood, an excellent opportunity to indulge in some outdoor adventurous activities.

Living Eggs in school

As you probably know from your children, we have our annual visit from our eggs and chicks. If there are any chicken owners out there who would like to home our chicks please let the office know. They return to the farm they came from otherwise.



Uniform

Thank you all again for the efforts you make to send your children in the correct uniform. Every day, nearly every child comes in the correct uniform and on the odd occasion when that doesn't happen, there is normally a good reason for it.

Dates for the diary

Tuesday 1 st May	Pirates Day for Year 1
Thursday 3 rd May	Polling Day – school used as Polling station
Friday 4 th May	INSET day
Monday 7 th May	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 8 th May	Reflection Day in school
Friday 11 th May	Year 1 Class Assembly
Mon 14 th – Fri 18 th May	SATS week for Year 6
Friday 18 th May	Non uniform day – Red, White and Blue with Inflatable Event after school
28 th May – Fri 1 st June	Half Term