

Pott Shrigley Church School

Church of England Aided Primary

Shrigley Road, Pott Shrigley, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK10 5RT

Tel: 01625 573260 www.pottshrigleycs.co.uk

Head Teacher: Mr M. Bertinshaw head@pottshrigley.cheshire.sch.uk



'A place to learn, a place to grow, a place to be me'

20th June 2017

Rose Queen Festival, Maths week, School Update, Reverend David Swales, Parental Questionnaire.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Rose Queen Festival

What an exceptional event this was and it really demonstrated how important the school is to the Pott Shrigley community. The children were all great, both in the church and on the village field. There are some wonderful photographs on the school website. Many thanks to all the parents and many friends of the school who helped us in this event.

Maths week

The children seemed to really enjoy their maths week last week. The staff planned 'The Zoo' as the theme and the children looked at area, perimeter, times and timetables and money. The project was summed up for me when a pupil said that they wished every week could be a maths week!

School Update

I thought that I would use this newsletter to give you an update on developments and future plans in school.

Firstly, I am delighted that Mr Paul Quirk from Kettlethulme School will be taking over as the new headteacher in September. He already knows much about the school from his role on the Board of Governors. I know Paul both personally and professionally and I am sure that he will provide positive leadership to take the school forward.

Over the summer break we anticipate that we will redevelop the outside classroom to provide an outstanding learning environment for our younger pupils. This is an exciting project which sees the newly acquired land at the back of the school being changed from agricultural land into a wonderful learning and play area. There will also be work inside the classroom to provide toilet and washing facilities and tenders have gone out for builders to complete this work. We are also putting together a bid to the Diocese for a climbing and outside activity area, again on newly acquired land. Though this is a slightly longer term project, it will create a fantastic play area for all age primary children. Additionally we are looking at raising the height of the outside walls of the school playground, either with additional walling or small railings, to ensure the safety of the pupils. We will, of course, always ensure that it is in keeping with the beautiful rural setting that we have here at Pott Shrigley School.

Reverend David Swales

We were delighted to meet with Reverend David Swales in school shortly after his licensing service. He joined us for one of our assemblies and the children were very impressed with his guitar skills! We are pleased that Reverend David is also one of our school governors and we thank him for his thoughtful prayer at his first Governing Board meeting. We hope that he will be a regular visitor to the school and we are greatly looking forward to further strengthening the links between St Christopher's and the school.

Parental Questionnaire

Many thanks to the parents who returned the questionnaire. The response rate was very high, with 13 replies in total and this represents a good proportion of parents. The responses are below and are overwhelmingly positive with nearly all areas either strongly agree or agree to some extent. Where percentages do not fully balance, it may be that parents have ticked between lines or omitted areas where they have no strong opinion, hence the slight variation in results.

OUR CHILD	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Enjoys being at school.	66%	34%		
Is making good progress.	64%	36%		
Is encouraged to work to the best of his/her ability.	75%	25%		
Feels proud of our school community	70%	30%		

HOMEWORK	Too much	About right	Too little
My child receives an appropriate amount of homework	8%	92%	

COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION	Yes	No
School reports at the end of the year give us an accurate and helpful picture of our child's progress.	92%	8%
We get sufficient information about our child's progress - (from parent evenings to discuss progress and areas to develop / from discussions during the year as and when necessary).	83%	17%
The school keeps parents informed about what is taught in school - eg: regular communication, website use.	100%	
Letters from school are friendly, welcoming and informative.	100%	

PARENTS AND THE SCHOOL	Yes	No
There is good communication between home and school regarding events, problems etc.	100%	
The school encourages parents to play an active part in school life.	92%	8%
The school actively seeks parents' concerns, questions and views.	83%	17%

FORMAL PARENT-TEACHER MEETINGS	Always	Usually	Sometimes	Never
We are able to arrange a convenient time to meet our child's teacher	67%	33%		
We feel welcomed and listened to	83%	17%		
We get a chance to speak honestly about what concerns us	83%	17%		

GENERAL ISSUES	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
My child is safe in school.	75%	25%		
The school is welcoming and helpful.	75%	25%		
Staff are approachable and helpful.	70%	30%		
The school encourages children to lead a healthy lifestyle.	42%	50%	8%	
The school promotes good behaviour.	59%	33%	8%	
The school has a good reputation in the community.	64%	36%		
The school works hard to ensure attendance.	54%	46%		
The school promotes independence in the children.	67%	25%	8%	
There is a happy atmosphere in the school.	75%	25%		
The school environment is a caring one.	92%	8%		

I am pleased that we managed to get the homework question mainly 'about right'. It is always a tricky area in primary schools as parents often have opposing views on homework for young children. We may also need to review our attendance procedures again to ensure that children are attending school when they should be.

The lowest 'strongly agree' is actually the healthy lifestyle comment. In recent months we have ensured that all children have had the chance to go swimming, continued to employ a specialist sports coach, begun a programme of Forest Schools, purchased a new football kit and additional playground sports equipment. We have changed our school meals supplier and are very pleased with the quality of the provision. Additionally we have had a particular focus on healthy eating as part of the curriculum in Class 2. This was probably not an area that I would have identified previously and these results are sometimes an opportunity to ensure that we are giving the right message to parents about school life.

Other informal parental comments for future development included:

- Increase pupil numbers (x3)
- Upgrade facilities for all year groups, including EYFS provision
- Improve community / church links
- Improve external safety re access
- Stability – pupils and staff
- Other sports in the after school club
- Forest schools as a positive move, especially as it's now in the afternoon
- School meals improvement noted

Many of these areas have already happened, are in hand or are planned. However, there are some additional useful pointers which we will look at together. Thank you for your help in this.

Yours sincerely

A. M. Bertinshaw

