



Norfolk County Council  
Trowse Primary School

8<sup>th</sup> September 2017

**Response to your questionnaires**

I was so grateful for all of your responses. Overall we had 50 strengths listed by you and 13 individual comments to consider for the future. So much considered opinion went in to your questionnaires I thought it warranted a response from me on each of your points for the future.

- *Could lunch and assembly performances be done at different times to support working parents?*  
We do try to vary timings but as the saying goes, it's very hard to please all of the people all of the time. Assemblies are often best placed at 9am so parents can arrange to go in a bit late. If they were at 2:30, before the end of the school day, that often turns into a half day off work. With big productions we try to have an in-school variety of times (AM and PM) and an evening option for KS2. With regard to lunches- obviously we can't really change the time of them, but over the years hopefully the day of the week changes for you so you can come in some years for a lunch.
- *Could we have online payments?*  
We do have bank details for you to pay us online. Just ask Mrs Andrews in the office for details of how to do this and what we need from you.
- *Update the website with things to remember for the week.*  
Teachers in Class 1, 2 and 3 do write to you on the whiteboards weekly with things for you to know about the coming week. They also write to you at the beginning of a term about the curriculum coming up that term. This often contains information about what day of the week PE is, or when they might need to hand in homework. I will endeavour to get these letters from the teacher on to the website so you can always refer back to where you remember seeing it!
- *It would be good to have suggestions on how we can get or provide help.*  
Teachers write every term to you with their curriculum newsletter. This always contains a section entitled 'how can you help at home?' or words to that effect. If you would like more detailed information on what you can do or how you can do it, please speak to the teacher or me. We are always happy to help you support your child out of school. It is true that children who are well supported in learning outside of school and clock up many, many hours of extra hours learning, do achieve higher by the end of year 6 and have better habits of learning for the transition to high school.  
We do have a Parent Support Advisor for the cluster of schools. This person can help you with home related issues that may be impacting on school for your child. Gillian will meet you where you feel most comfortable, give tips about common parenting issues, find services and other agencies to help. She works in term times and her contact details are on the website or in the foyer.



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- *Focus less on being a bigger school!*  
Well, difficult one! We are a Local Authority state school and as such are the 'users' of the building the Local authority give us. They do still plan on providing a new building in the coming years which will be built for one class of 30 children in each year group. As staff and governors we are clear that we need to keep hold of the ethos of our school when the day comes to move buildings.
- *Additional monitoring of pupils at playtimes to help those who are not involved in the majority of sports- maybe some extra structured games.*  
Thank you for this. I will be having conversations with staff about having an eye out for children who would like alternative ideas at play time. We do not want the children to be unhappy- equally we do want them to have their own 'down time' and not feel like they must be doing something!
- *More opportunities for pupils to represent the school. A more diverse range of activities would help.*  
This year we had children represent the school in: cross country, skiing, football, tag rugby, athletics, swimming, golf, cricket maths and science. For a school of this size I don't think this year's list is too bad...? We do believe it is good for the children to be able to compete against the best from other schools and always look for opportunities, where reasonably practical, to compete.
- *More understanding of UK poverty.*  
Reasonable point- well made. We do support the Mudeka Foundation and the children are versed in the lives of children less fortunate than themselves abroad sometimes more that they consider the needs of those close to home. It is touched on in my assemblies from time to time, particularly when taking about charities like Comic Relief and Children In Need. We'll think about that and where it fits more formally...
- *More language classes.*  
Currently we teach French as our main foreign language. It is the language Framingham Earl are happy to receive children the most proficient in. We have run a club before too- but it ceased due to low numbers.
- *More flexible swimming*  
We have had a bit of a difficult year with swimming and struggled to get anything in place for a while! We were very lucky we could offer it to year 3 and 4 in the end and it is Norwich School that provide us with the minibus and driver for free every swimming session. My thanks go to them. We will be reviewing swimming provision in the next academic year and will consider issues such as grouping lower ability and higher ability swimmers to go together and of course consult with the class teachers and swimming teacher about what works most effectively and arrive at a consensus.
- *Cycling proficiency*  
Currently we offer pedestrian safety in KS1 and cycle safety in KS2. We have used the Norfolk 'Cycling proficiency' Programme and the 'Bikeability' scheme too. We will continue to do so.
- *Healthier desserts on the menu*  
The menus do have a range of classic desserts on them. I can pass on that the menus are designed to be nutritionally balanced daily and across a weekly by Edwards and Blake, the catering company that provide our meals. With regard to desserts specifically, there is the standard dessert option, then there is always a natural yoghurt with fruit compote or a fresh fruit salad available every day. If you do not wish for your child to have the standard dessert like a fruit crumble and custard, please do make sure they know what option you want them to order in the morning.
- *Continue to offer the wide range of activities. This is really well received!*  
Thank you- we will!

Thank you for your comments once again. We do listen to everyone and continue to strive to make this school the best it can possibly be.



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