



GOVERNORS' NEWS

Website: www.bernardsheathjnr.herts.sch.uk
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Dear Parents and Carers,

THANK YOU for letting us have your views earlier this term both via the national on-line "Parent View" survey, and also in direct response to the school's own questionnaire. With a rising number of children at the school year on year as we progressively expand to full three form entry, it is even more important to us that we know what our growing numbers of parents think about the school and strive to provide you with every opportunity to let us have your views.

Our prime aim is to provide the best experience for your children during their four years with us. Whilst it is vital that we are aware of any issues that are causing concern, it is equally important for us to know when "everything is fine". It is only by hearing the full range of views from a majority of parents that we can both address any issues of concern, and can continue to develop with confidence the aspects we are doing well. Our aim is for things to be "better than just fine" and your participation in these surveys can help to make a real difference.

SCHOOL QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS January 2013

281 children at the school: just 8 responses

Throughout the school year, parents of pupils at Bernards Heath Junior School show fantastic support in all aspects of school life, from attendance at Consultation Evenings and other school events such as concerts, plays, sports day, special assemblies and information evenings to offers to help with a variety of school activities and outings, and the school benefits from a wonderfully pro-active PTA. It was disappointing, therefore, to receive a very low level of response to this year's questionnaire: just 8 responses, i.e. less than 3%, in total.



ASPECTS OF SCHOOL LIFE YOU ARE PARTICULARLY HAPPY WITH:

35
46

It was very pleasing that the vast majority of individual comments (35 out of 46) were positive, and that these referred to the fundamental aspects of school life, such as the quality of teaching, good leadership, children happy and confident, the quality and scope of the wider curriculum available. There were some aspects, e.g. "homework" and "communication" where parents were happy **and** not so happy in equal measures. The school is never complacent about issues such as these and continually looks to explore, explain and develop methods and systems to ensure that these are appropriate and effective.



ASPECTS OF SCHOOL LIFE YOU ARE UNCLEAR ABOUT OR NOT SO HAPPY WITH:

11
46

In response to one or two specific comments (regarding lunch-time or library procedures and state of the boys' toilets), class teachers or Mrs. Kilpatrick have already contacted parents to talk these over or put measures in place to address the issue. Other comments, for example regarding use of the sports field, and "bad driving and parking near the school" are ongoing issues which are already being addressed by school leadership and governors.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW PARENT GOVERNORS

We have been very pleased at the level of interest in the two parent governor vacancies which have arisen since September, both in the number of candidates putting themselves forward, and the considerable number of parents who engaged in the voting process. **Jim Laird** (father of children in years 4, 3 and 1), and **Vicky Paganuzzi** (mother of children in years 6 and 3) are now firmly part of the Governing Body team at the school. The next expected vacancy will be September 2014. If you would like to find out about the important role a school governor plays in the school community, information is available on the school website, and also on the County website: www.hertsdirect.org/governors. Mary Liming, Chair of Governors, is always happy to explain the role in more detail – please leave a message for her to contact you via the school office.

WORKING TOGETHER TO ADDRESS CONCERNS BEFORE THEY BECOME PROBLEMS

If you do have any specific concerns about your child's progress or well-being, class teachers are always willing to discuss these with you. If the matter cannot be resolved satisfactorily, an appointment can then be made with Mrs. Kilpatrick who is always more than happy to talk concerns over with parents. We want your children to be happy and successful during their time at Bernards Heath and will work with you to achieve this.

“PARENT VIEW” – a positive, but (as yet) inconclusive picture

We were delighted to see a significant increase in response rate: from under 10 up to 31. With 281 children at the school, we look forward to greater participation by parents in these surveys so they may truly represent the parent body as a whole. It was very pleasing to note that the majority of responses were overwhelmingly positive, with **90%** recommending the school to another parent. What is frustrating about “Parent View” is that, in the one or two cases where parents have expressed dissatisfaction with a particular aspect (e.g. 6% disagreed that the school “deals effectively with bullying”), there is no way of knowing whether this is still an ongoing issue, or whether (as we would sincerely hope), that the matter has now been addressed and resolved.

Have you registered your views yet?

The “Parent View” survey is one of the factors considered by Ofsted when assessing a school. It would be useful for us, therefore, to hear from many more of our parents. Parent View is easily accessed via the link on the school website or from the link on the Ofsted website: www.ofsted.gov.uk

Please just take a moment to give your responses to the 12 on-line questions. **Many thanks.**

DID YOU KNOW that there is a vast amount of useful information on the school website?

Visit: www.bernardsheathjnr.herts.sch.uk

From the top of the “Home” page, there is a link to all the **Statutory Information** schools need to provide, including:

- the School's Ethos and Values
- the School Prospectus
- an overview of the Curriculum taught in each year group
- the latest Ofsted Report and Key Issues addressed since the last inspection
- how the school spends Government “Pupil Premium” money
- the latest SATS results and School Performance data
- Parent View

From the main tool bar, there are links to:

- the **Learning Zone**: where you can find out what is happening in each class through the Learning Blogs.
- **Information for Parents**: with the latest Newsletters, General letters and Guidance, Policies, Procedures, Links and Data
- General information **“About the School”**
- the **School Calendar** and **term dates**

Plus all last minute messages are posted on the School's **TWITTER** feed, which can be accessed both via the school website and direct to smart phones.

Other communication is sent to parents via **PARENTMAIL** – a very user-friendly service used by many schools - but the school will explore what other options may be possible when the current contract expires.