

On behalf of **Parent Voice** thank you so much to everyone who completed the questionnaire. Your ideas and input are very much valued and allows us to feedback to the school and its governing body on the views of parents. It also helps us, as parents of children in the school ourselves, to ensure parents understand the thinking behind decisions made by the school. This means we can jointly work to continue to support our school.

At our most recent Parent Voice meeting we discussed how the school had managed during COVID and the numerous lockdowns we have had. The key themes we discussed, taking account of your views were:

- Drop off arrangements
- PE Kits
- Assemblies
- Parents Evenings
- Google classroom for the setting of homework

The following sections have been provided by different members of Parent Voice with the aim of achieving a joint understanding of how we move forward for the best of our children and the school, post COVID.

#### **Drop off arrangements:**

One of the most common views was about “drop off” times at school, with half the parents liking the current staggered times and the other half wanting to go back to 8.45am start. On discussion we believe that the whole school starting at 8.45am will be better for everyone. There will be no waiting around for those families with more than one child. All children will be walking through the front door as of September, therefore older siblings will have the chance to walk into school with the younger ones. This will help to stop the worrying when moving from infant to junior. It will also better develop children’s independence. Also, Mr Wright feels he doesn’t get to see everyone with the current way of doing things, so this will be a great opportunity for him to greet all pupils on entry. Everyone having the same start time will also shorten the amount of time we are blocking roads, driveways etc. with parking. Just as a reminder we do have permission to use the village hall car park!

#### **PE Kits:**

This week saw a further return to our pre-COVID ways of working, with children being required to bring a PE kit to leave in school. The recent questionnaire raised many valuable points which were discussed at the parent voice meeting. For example, many of us have found that sending our children into school wearing their kits added a great deal of convenience to our morning routines! On balance though, we discussed the ways that this COVID measure had taken away some valuable learning opportunities for our children. Learning to change quickly and independently in a school environment is vital for our younger children, and for this reason forms part of the school curriculum. In the same way, navigating the tricky feelings surrounding getting changed in large groups is a really important part of preparing for secondary school. Changing from uniform into PE kits is also important to support with good personal hygiene, especially as our children develop. Some parents also discussed the ways in which children were beginning to compare brands and insist on the latest trainers and tracksuits. This is an added pressure we hope to remove from parents and carers with the return to our smart and simple PE kits!

**Assemblies:**

The general feedback from the parent survey regarding Mr Wright's online assemblies was very positive, so we are pleased to say they will continue. However, the recording and uploading of the assemblies is very time consuming, so going forward they will be less frequent, switching to alternate weeks. To compensate for this, to help keep the connection with your children's learning and achievements in school, more information and photos of what the children are doing in the classroom will be available on the school website. Subject to the easing of restrictions the school also plans to start to phase back bringing parents into school for events.

**Parents Evenings:**

An overwhelming amount of you supported the (necessary) move to online meetings and would support the continuation of this in the future. Reasons mostly amounted to convenience and it being easier for childcare. A small amount of feedback indicated that face-to-face meetings would also be welcomed. Therefore, from Autumn Term the school is planning to provide a virtual date followed by a face-to-face option. We have also suggested that the time allocation is slightly increased for the virtual option. Details of this will follow in due course and the school will continue to monitor how this "blended" approach works.

**Google Classroom for the setting of homework:**

Everyone has enjoyed using Google Classroom for homework and it has worked well for children, their families, and the teachers. Parents have been able to see feedback on their children's work much sooner than when paper-based homework books were used. This has meant families can more easily talk to their child/children about how they got on with their homework and celebrate their success/improvements. Google Classroom will continue to be in use for 2021/22 although the school will also have a few paper copies available to support in exceptional cases.