

Crowmarsh Gifford C. E. Primary School

Old Reading Road, Crowmarsh Gifford, Wallingford, Oxfordshire OX10 8EN

Faith ♦ Service ♦ Integrity ♦ Responsibility ♦ Truth ♦ Excellence



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Dear Parents,

I think we are now seeing that there is truly an end to what has been a 'crazy' and unexpected year. But, as I keep saying, it's what we have learnt and what we will take forward as a result that is most important. For me, I see this as the most important time in education, a chance for us to redefine and rethink the purpose of our system that we work within and a chance to reimagine what our schools could be. This is our chance to ensure our children thrive and we can confidently send them into society, passionate about learning and with the courage to stand as leaders in an ever-changing world.

Your children have had a fantastic start back to school. They have all done incredibly well and you should be so proud of how they have settled back into the familiar school routine. They have demonstrated resilience, focus and a huge amount of perseverance – now they are exhausted and hopefully you have a well-deserved break in front of you.

Thank you to everyone who completed our parent survey the other week. I wanted to take this opportunity to share the results and let you know how our school will respond to the feedback. We really appreciate your comments as having an insight into parent perceptions allows us to adjust, alter and constantly evaluate everything that we do in school. Nothing is ever perfect and we can always improve in every area. With feedback, reflection and evaluation, that is exactly what we hope to do at Crowmarsh School.

As you can see from the feedback (on additional attachment), there are some clear areas that we are doing well in and key things we need to improve. The following are some of the actions we will now take as a result.

- SeeSaw was seen as a very positive tool during lockdown, therefore, staff have agreed that they will use this as the main form of communication moving forwards. Instead of doing weekly blogs on the school website, they will share at least one piece of learning during the week, as well as use this platform as the main mode of 'teaching and learning' communication including homework and how to support at home.
- Many parents don't feel as though they know what their children will be learning. At the start of next term, all teachers will be doing a Zoom session with parents to ensure parents are aware of what their children will be learning for the summer term. Teachers will provide you with a curriculum overview and will inform you of what actions they will be taking for the final weeks of the academic year to ensure children continue to thrive and engage with their learning. Further, during parent meetings, we will be more explicit with what the curriculum content is for your children as well as what children are 'expected' to know by the end of their year group.
- Many parents discussed the 'breadth of curriculum' and 'extra-curricular' activities. Obviously, with lockdown, we have not been able to offer any clubs or after school activities, but we hope that this will soon be lifted. In regard to the 'foundation' subjects and 'breadth of curriculum', a large part of our development plan moving forwards, is focused on 'reimagining' our Art, Design and Technology and Music curriculums to ensure a rich, exciting progression across school. Therefore, we hope that your children begin to talk about all the wonderful learning that has been taking place in their classrooms.



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"Let Your Light Shine..." Matthew 5:16

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- Some parents felt as though their concerns were not dealt with properly when they raised them. Obviously, if concerns are raised with teachers, I am only told about them if they are concerns that need raising with me. No formal complaints have been made this year through the school's complaint procedures. Therefore, I will begin logging any concerns that are raised with me and these will be summarised and shared with governors as part of my headteacher's reports so that as a school, we become accountable for ensuring all complaints/concerns are acted upon appropriately.
- Communication is an area that clearly needs improvement. In the office, we were acutely aware of how many messages parents were receiving during lockdown. Therefore, from after Easter, the office will only send out necessary school communications via e-mail. Texts will be sent regarding head bumps or to remind you of any events happening the following day. The majority of teaching and learning communication will be sent via SeeSaw from your class teachers. The school newsletter will begin being sent out again as normal every fortnight – this is where you will also find any community news or information regarding any events that are happening elsewhere, etc. If we are planning any activities in school we will aim to always give you two weeks notice – this all fell apart during lockdown, we know, but from here on out we will endeavour to give you as much notice as possible for any whole school events. Finally, over the summer I will be doing a huge update to our school website to make sure it is fresh and has all the most current information on it.

There have been many things that we have learnt over this last year and we will continue to develop these areas and build on them. One of the great things that we have been able to offer are our Zoom assemblies and we will continue with these so that parents and families can join in and see what our school has been doing. When we are finally allowed to be back together in the hall, I will sort out a way to ensure that we can continue to Zoom these to families as well.

We are really looking forward to the summer term and the exciting opportunities it brings us. We have firm plans in place to ensure all children are happy to be in school and fully engaged with their learning. As with this last term, wellbeing will continue to be central to everything we do as a school for both children and staff.

Until then, we hope that you and your families have a wonderful break. Get some rest and enjoy being together again. As we come through the 'year of hope' – let's transition into the 'year of joy'. Take some time to be thankful and remind yourselves of all that you have to be grateful for. Focusing on this helps us to be joyful, content and happy, especially during uncertain times.

Looking forward to seeing you all again soon for the start of our final term for this academic year. How quickly time flies.

Kindest Regards,

Your Headteacher,

F. Cooper



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