



28<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome to March's newsletter – the final one for the spring term. The weather isn't making things feel particularly spring-like at the moment - here's hoping we get some dry, warm weather for the Easter holidays.

### **Survey responses**

Many thanks again to the parents and carers who completed our parent survey at the beginning of the term. An overview of the responses is included at the end of this newsletter. Where parents or carers left specific queries or comments, I have provided responses.

### **Deputy Headteacher**

I'm delighted to welcome Mrs Rudd to Team Cheveley as our new Deputy Headteacher. Mrs Rudd takes up post after the Easter holidays and, alongside her leadership duties, will be teaching in Year 4 one day a week. She's very much looking forward to working with our wonderful children, their families and the staff here in school.

### **Parents' evening**

I would just like to thank all the parents and carers who attended parents' evening last week – so many of you were able to come which means a great deal to the staff and the children. Thanks also to those of you who were able to join remotely or catch up with your child's class teacher on the phone. As you know, we value the communication between home and school and recognise the importance this plays in the children's time here at Cheveley Park.

### **Easter activities**

In the run up to the end of term, all children in school have had the opportunity to take part in a range of Easter experiences – whether that be going to church, dancing (and eating!) at the disco, spending money and winning prizes at the tombola – or entering the decorated egg competition (...wow – so many *eggcellent* and *eggstraordinary* creations!) Lots of fun for everyone – thank you to the Friends for their help with many of these activities and to you all for your support.



## Parent governor vacancies

Many thanks to the parents who expressed an interest in becoming one of our parent governors – and thanks also to those parents and carers who voted. The ballot has now been sent to the Local Authority and I can inform you that our three parent governors are Hazel Bone, Helen Shaw and Andrew Teasdale. I look forward to having the three new parents as part of our governing body and wider school team.

## Snacks in school

I have spoken to the children in assemblies about the snacks they are bringing into school to eat at playtime. These conversations have come about as a result of the amount of litter there has been recently on the playground, MUGA and gardens. The wrappers and packaging have brought to our attention the amount of unhealthy snacks children are eating during the school day. Please can I ask that you do not provide children with crisps, chocolate bars or sweets to eat at playtimes. Thank you for your understanding and help with this.

## LA Updates

We have been made aware of some social media platforms where children of primary school age are encouraged to join groups and then to self-harm. Whilst this is always a possible threat for our children, it seems to be particularly prevalent in this area at the minute. We ask you to be extra vigilant over the Easter period with regards to your child's online activity so that they are not drawn into such groups. If you need extra information on how to support your child, then the following link to the NSPCC site may be useful:

[Content promoting self-harm, suicide and eating disorders | NSPCC](#)

## Summer term dates

Many important dates for the summer term will be added to the online calendar (which can be accessed via this link: <https://teamup.com/ksfjvfqm7uh79bp6mq>) as soon as possible. However, some key dates are already up there. Please take some time to check this out now – and then again when we return to school after the holidays. As always, new dates are added throughout the term – so please keep checking.

Two-thirds of the way through the school year: it definitely doesn't feel like it was seven months ago when I wrote the September newsletter! Time really does fly 😊

I'd like to take this opportunity to once again thank you all – children, parents, carers and staff – for another super term. I wish you all a restful Easter break with family and friends. Look after yourselves and each other and we'll see our lovely children back in school on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April.

Warm wishes



Amy Goodwin (Headteacher)

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Parent Survey – January 2024 (86 parents responded: 1 parent = 1.16%)	
Question	Outcome
My child is happy at this school	100% agree/strongly agree
My child feels safe at this school	100% agree/strongly agree
The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved	95.36% agree/strongly agree
My child has been bullied at this school	No = 91.88%
If yes – the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively	86% agree/strongly agree
The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year	98.84% agree/strongly agree
When I have raised concerns with the school, they have been dealt with properly	27.84% have not raised any concerns 63.8% agree/strongly agree
Does your child have SEND	81.2% no 18.8% yes
If yes – the school gives them the support they need to succeed	94% agree/strongly agree
The school has high expectations for my child	96.52% agree/strongly agree
My child does well at this school	100% agree/strongly agree
The school lets me know how my child is doing	96.52% agree/strongly agree
There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school	97.68% agree/strongly agree
My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school	97.68% agree/strongly agree
The school supports my child's wider personal development	95.36% agree/strongly agree
I would recommend this school to another parent	97.68% agree/strongly agree

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**Additional comments from parents (and responses from school when required)**

We love Cheveley. My daughter adores her teachers and I always feel like I'm leaving her in safe hands. Thank you for working so hard to give my daughter the best experiences
My child is very anxious about school but I do feel they have been supported well and their current teacher keeps me well informed. I'm pleased to see some non-sport clubs being offered this half term and my son is very keen to participate again. Well done!
Great job. Keep up the fantastic work you all do.
School goes above and beyond to support our whole family.
My child attends this school because he couldn't talk at ALL & this school provides these learning skills. Now he 4yrs later he talks almost fluent. Thank you.
All the staff and Head teacher are always ready to help and sort issues if any.
Good communication and regularly trying new things. Mindful of mental health which is a plus for us.
I highly recommend Cheveley Park to friends and family. A true family and team ethos where my children feel safe, comfortable and happy to be themselves, learn and develop. I will be devastated when the time comes for my eldest daughter to leave this year. A big thank you to Mrs Goodwin and all staff. Their passion and genuine care for the children and their jobs is evident and appreciated.
Our children enjoy the school and are both progressing extremely well with their learning.
Amazing school
I couldn't be happier with this school. My children are well cared for and are progressing so well in all areas. They are happy going into school and happy coming out, a clear sign that they love school and feel safe! The staff are fantastic and clearly dedicated to doing their best for the children.
Such a wonderful little school. My daughter has gone from struggling to read in reception to excelling at year 5. Topics are interesting, staff are friendly and caring. Choice of after school activities is great too and really helps with childcare. When we had a personal crisis we were supported through it really well by the headteacher who provided knowledge, comfort and support to help us through it and minimise the impact on my daughter. Absolutely nothing to complain about. The kids are happy at the school from what I can see. Keep doing what you're doing. Thanks for all your hard work and dedication. Not easy creating a culture as good as this. Hats off to you all.
"Our daughter enjoys her time at school and is always keen to attend; she loves to learn and has developed good friendships. Staff recognise our daughter's individual needs.
Thank you! We continue to be proud of Team Cheveley and recommend the school to many other parents.
Our son enjoys school and continues to make appropriate progress. Any concerns raised have been dealt with promptly. We continue to be keen to recommend Cheveley Park to other parents.
<b>Thank you so much for the positive and supportive comments above: they really do mean a lot to the staff team.</b>

Comment	Response
It would be useful if the school gates were always unlocked before a certain time on a morning. Quite often parents can be queueing outside at 8.40 waiting for gates to be unlocked.	We always aim to have all of the school gates open between 8:30 am and 8:40 am each day. However, our caretakers also deal with issues in school and contractors on site which may affect this timing slightly on occasions.
Sometimes I feel the school doesn't have a hard enough stance when dealing with problem behaviour - particularly when they are causing disruption for the rest of the class	All staff in school consistently follow our Behaviour Policy. On the occasions when there is more challenging behaviour, this is dealt with in an appropriate manner (on an individual basis) by Mrs Goodwin. Parents and carers are involved throughout in these situations.

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<p>It would be good if there were a larger variety of musical instrument to learn at the school, rather than just brass.</p>	<p>Durham's Music Service provides us with the musical instrument lessons. Other musical instrument lessons may be available at a cost to parents and carers. This comment will be passed on to Durham's Music team and if there are any updates or further information regarding this, it will be shared with parents and carers.</p>
<p>Sen reviews should include the parent, Senco and teacher to allow discussion between everyone rather than meeting teachers and senco separately. They should be at least three times a year with parent invited or request their views.</p>	<p>SEN plans are reviewed at least 3 times per year in school. The SENDCo, class teacher, teaching assistant/one-to-one worker, parents/carers and children all contribute to these reviews. In the summer term, these reviews are held in school with class teachers (current and the following year), SENDCo and parents/carers all present. This meeting is key to ensure a smooth transition into the next academic year. Parents and carers have the opportunity to meet with the SENDCo and class teachers termly in parents' evenings. However, staff are always very willing to meet with parents and carers at additional points throughout the year if this was requested. Logistically, with 50 children in school having additional needs, termly meetings which involve the SENDCo, class teachers and parents and carers together is not feasible. Please refer to our SEND review cycle in the SEND policy for a breakdown of the review process.</p>
<p>Additional after school clubs (paid for) would be a huge help to working parents</p> <p>An after school provision would be beneficial rather than an after school club one day a week, even if funded by parents.</p> <p>After school clubs are provided once a week. It would be useful if there was an option every night (a teatime club possibly similar to breakfast club) so there were more options for after school care.</p>	<p>We recognise how beneficial after school provision could be for parents and carers. Currently, we offer a range of free after school clubs for different year groups on different days. As a result of this, there is no available space in school to add daily after school provision on top of these clubs. Moving forward, consideration will be given as to how it could be possible to enhance after school provision.</p>
<p>I would really like to know what my child's spelling scores are each week so we can continue to work on them at home. We work hard at home on spelling, I just find it difficult to then not get any feedback. We just want to help at home where we can.</p>	<p>In the first instance, it is probably best to ask the child for their spelling score. However, if the child appears unsure, please don't hesitate to contact their class teacher who will be more than happy to share this result with you.</p>
<p>Most homework is online which I don't mind as my child currently really enjoys it. My question is, as my child moves through school will there be occasions where other tasks will be set which are not always computer based?</p>	<p>Most year groups' homework is mainly set using online apps and programmes, which is proving to work very well. It's good to know that your child enjoys this. Depending on the topic and task, teachers do, at times, set paper-based/non-computer-based activities.</p>

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<p>I would like to see the school learn a more in depth understanding of other religions as they focus mainly on Christianity but are a none denominational school and the children do one term on other religions</p>	<p>As a non-faith school, we are advised to follow the Durham RE syllabus. This outlines our curriculum and provision for the subject.</p>
<p>My children enjoy the school and are doing well here. As a parent though I have disagreed with a few of the schools decisions that have taken place in the last few months.</p>	<p>It's very pleasing to hear that your child is happy in school and is doing well. Without knowing what these decisions are, I'm unable to make specific responses. However, I am always more than happy to discuss and explain decisions if they are brought to my attention at the time.</p>
<p>Over the past few months decision making at the school though has been disappointing in particular making the whole school stand in the yard and sing Christmas carols in the freezing cold and pouring rain was a somewhat stupid decision in my opinion and this should not happen again. Both our children were then ill in the weeks after this.</p>	<p>As above – I'm happy to discuss / explain any decisions made if they are brought to my attention at the time. The Christmas singing was a very difficult decision: the children really wanted to sing for their adults on the day; many parents also contacted the school requesting that the event go ahead. In this situation, I recognised that I would be unable to keep everyone happy.</p>
<p>Regarding personal development I do think that the school is doing good job with the personal development regarding to the curriculum requirement however, I don't think that the teachers have time to pay attention on the kids individual needs, interests or talents. I always though that trying to shape all the kids the same would not work as they are all different individuals and different approach is required if we want to stimulate them and help them achieve their maximum potential.</p>	<p>While we cannot offer a personalised curriculum for individual children, we pride ourselves on tailoring our curriculum to meet the varying needs and interests of our children. As a staff team, we feel that we know our children very well and this knowledge, alongside a tailored approach to teaching the curriculum, results in children being the best that they can be. We also provide non-academic interventions which support children who learn in different ways and require a different approach. We celebrate our children and their individuality.</p>
<p><i>In addition to the above, there were three comments specifically relating to curriculum coverage and progression. Each year group and subject have a Passport which outlines key learning per term for each of the foundation subjects – please refer to these as they are a good overview of progression in subjects. Content of these passports are reviewed and updated/improved on an annual basis or when needed.</i></p>	
<p><i>There were also three comments specifically relating to bullying. I believe that, in school, we all take a firm stance on bullying and when any concerns are brought to our attention – or that we become aware of ourselves – immediate action is taken: children are spoken to and parents are involved. If at any point in the future, parents and carers feel that this is not the case for them and their child, staff in school must be alerted. In our pupil survey (182 children completed the questionnaire), 4% of them felt that there was some bullying in school. While this may only be a small amount, our aim is for no children to feel that bullying takes place in school.</i></p>	

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