



Stephenson Memorial Primary School
Martin Road, Wallsend, Tyne and Wear, NE28 0AG
Tel: (0191) 500 6670
Email: info@smemorial.co.uk
Mrs K.Lilico, Acting Executive Headteacher

Dear Parents / Carers,

Thank you to those families that completed our recent Parent/Carer survey. This is a really important way in which you can voice your opinion in how we change and shape the future of our school. I thought you would find it interesting if I gave you a summary of the results.

It really pleases me that you say your children are happy and feel safe at school, and that you feel that we have high expectations for our children, ultimately you have agreed that your children do well at Stephenson Memorial. We would agree, with all of these statements, this is what we see on a day to day basis.

On the questions around behaviour, the vast majority of families felt that behaviour was good at school, some however felt that this wasn't the case. Please let me reassure you that whilst the children are in school, we see very calm and productive students, their days are too busy to be distracted with anything else! We have a behaviour system in school, where if needs be, children can be brought to the senior leadership office for reflection, where incidents are discussed and acted upon. Please can I reassure you that we have seen a huge decrease in children having to attend these reflection sessions this academic year. We are however dealing with some behaviour that is occurring outside of school, in the local area, and although what we can do here is limited, we do try and address as much of this as we can in school, either with individuals, or groups of children.

We had two sections of our survey that asked for strengths and suggestions for improvements, we were overwhelmed with the amount of supporting comments we received, thanking our amazing staff for the work they do on a daily basis - your comments like this are very much appreciated, especially when the year has been so hard for us all. Your suggestions were helpful too, please see below for further information:

You wanted to see a development on the yard at the back of the school.

This is something that we are currently working on. We are working with an organisation called 'Opal' which stands for 'Outdoor play and learning'. Keep your eyes open for more information about this. We believe that playtimes should be an extension of learning, but learning through play outside, whatever the weather!

You want to see more feedback about what your children are doing in school

Yes, I absolutely agree! Pre-covid, this was something that we did on a regular basis, inviting you into the classroom to look at projects, your child's books, assemblies etc. During the pandemic we have struggled to allow this to happen, due to restricted access on the school site. We do have Seesaw running throughout the school where children's work can be placed on there to see, but I understand that this is not the same. We are hopeful that come June 21st, we will be able to resume normal activities like this, we are just waiting for the Government's guidelines on how schools can ease restrictions.





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You would like to keep the staggered start and end times

I agree that the staggered start and end times, have alleviated some of the issues around parking that we have on Martin Road, and the one way system into school, has helped to control and maintain a calm and orderly start to the day. This is something that we are looking at as a possibility of keeping in September, although the issue we have is when siblings in different classes, have different times, inevitably one sibling ends up coming into school a bit late. We will however look at this and will be in touch soon, hopefully with systems for September.

You have said there are too many systems of communication in the school

What can I say, we like to make sure you get the message!! This is something that we will look at trying to streamline for you.

You would like more choice for school dinners

Again covid restrictions have been in place around dinner times, which has meant that children have had to eat in their classrooms which is not ideal, and therefore the school menu has had to be adapted. We are however working on trying to get as many year groups back in to the dinner hall as quickly as possible. The school menu is set by the Local Authority, not the school, so we will pass this feedback onto them. Thank you

You think Homework is too easy

This is a difficult one, as many of you have very different opinions on homework, some families think that there isn't enough homework and others feel that children shouldn't have to do work at home, so we are trying to get the right balance, in focussing on the core basic skills your child needs to know. If you do think that the homework is too easy, I would ask that you speak to your child's class teacher, who will be able to give you advice.

Sorry this is such a long letter, but I felt that it was important for you to know that we do consider all of your comments, it matters a lot to us, that we get this right for everyone.

As ever, thank you for your continued support, it is very much appreciated

Best Wishes
Mrs Kerry Lilico
Head Teacher

