

# SUGGESTED IDEAS FROM THE PARENTS' 2016 PARENTS SURVEY AND THE SCHOOL'S RESPONSE

The following ideas were the main ideas suggested by parents in the 2016 annual parent survey and represents 25% of parents. These ideas have been considered by the school for our future development and improvement. Below is an outline of the school's responses to these suggestions and ideas:

## 1. School Clubs

There were quite a few parents again this year who wanted additional extra-curricular clubs to the ones we currently offer - lunchtimes and after school clubs.

*(As we responded last year) – we feel that as a small school, we offer a good range of extra-curricular clubs. Presently we offer sports and exercise clubs after school, a homework club, art and choir club after school and at lunchtimes we have a book club and chess. Lunchtime is a challenge for us to offer clubs due to lack of available space to use. Many clubs also rely on the goodwill of already very busy staff (and some parents too!) to run them, so again, a challenge for us to overcome. We have organised clubs where there has been a cost but unfortunately these have not been that well supported. Our relationship with Elite Sports continues to grow and we are always on the lookout for other clubs that we could offer in the future. We will continue to do our best to extend our provision.*

## 2. Educational Activities and Trips out of School

A number of parents wanted to see more 'fun' trips out of school rather than just 'educational visits'.

*First of all we need to say that all visits planned for children out of school are 'educational' and hopefully are also fun to our children. They are either linked directly to the curriculum or aimed at developing the children's personal and social skills.*

*Over the last few years the school has increased the number of visits that children make out of school. We are aware of the costs of trips and therefore need to be selective – staff will often find activities and trips that are free, to cut down expenditure. The cost of coaches has vastly increased and therefore, even if entry fees are low, this cost does inflate the total price. Some of you stated that school 'should make parents pay'. The school cannot insist that parents pay, due to legislation which states that schools only need to ask for 'voluntary contributions'. **However, if these contributions do not adequately cover the costs then the trip will have to be cancelled.** Fortunately, The Friends of the School have kindly agreed to continue to donate £5.00 per pupil per year so that one trip can go ahead at a reduced price. This year we will be developing a whole school trips plan so that we can provide continuity and fairness for the types of visits the children experience over their time at All Saints.*

## 3. Homework Issues

A number of parents made comments about homework and in particular, TicTacToe. Concerns expressed included:

- *Children becoming 'too cosy' with this approach.*
- *What consequences there were for those children who did not do their 3 activities?*
- *TicTacToe being like a 'competition' between parents!*
- *Having more regularly/weekly homework instead.*

*Weekly homework includes daily reading, learning times tables and, this year, we have introduced weekly spellings. For children in Years 2 to 6 there will be other additional*

*homework to do to support on-going school work and for preparation for the end of year tests (SATs). Weekly homework is very important as it consolidates key skills needed for English and Maths. TicTacToe homework is a different strategy aimed at encouraging children to develop their particular interests relating to the theme for that half term. **It was never intended for parents to do the tasks for the children but for parents to support and show an interest in the tasks set.** We will monitor those children not completing homework tasks more closely and contact parents about some possible strategies that they could use that will help their child complete at least 3 tasks per half term.*

Thank You to those parents who completed the questionnaire and for your ideas and suggestions.

Angela Dawes  
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