

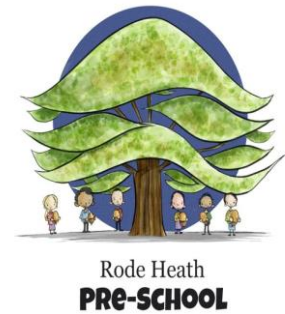


Rode Heath Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr. Carl Leech BA, NPQH



Dear Parents/Carers,

In December, we sent out our parent survey, and once again we are delighted with how positive the comments were. 100% of parents agreed (92% strongly agreed and 8% agreed) that our school is a good school and that you are proud for your child/ren to attend it.

As with previous surveys, comments from families whose children started their educational journey elsewhere and who have another setting to compare to were overwhelmingly positive. As a school we are never complacent and do take on board suggestions and constructive criticism. We are constantly striving to improve, so that your children can have the very best possible start to their education.

Below is a summary of feedback.

<p>Safeguarding & wellbeing</p>	<p>It was heartening to know that 100% of parents felt that their child/ren were happy, safe and well behaved at our school.</p> <p>As you know the safety of our pupils is paramount and we work hard to ensure that all pupils feel safe and are happy to come to school. Occasionally, usually when transitioning from pre-school to school, or key stage 1 to key stage 2, pupils can find the change of expectations, work and routines unsettling and we continue to strive to improve our transitional activities so that pupils find the change less onerous.</p> <p>Our safeguarding and wellbeing measures are tighter in school since the introduction of an e-based system CPoms. This system is used to log all kinds of concerns and is used to highlight children who may need extra support when transitioning to a new class or key stage. We also now have several wellbeing interventions that are run by trained TAs in order to ensure that our children's mental wellbeing is looked after equally as well as their physical wellbeing.</p> <p>As recognised by Ofsted, leaders do ensure there is a culture of vigilance in school and all staff, including middays and support staff are regularly trained to ensure we all work together to keep our children safe.</p> <p>Security in school will be improved further this academic year, with the installation of a boundary fence.</p>
<p>Bullying and raising concerns</p>	<p>Out of all the parent responses, only 1 parent felt that the school did not deal quickly and effectively with bullying.</p>



<p>with the school</p>	<p>Even though the vast majority of parents were happy with how the school dealt with issues and complaints, we always strive to work with our families and resolve any matters that are causing concern for either pupils or parents.</p> <p>Friendship issues will always occur within a school and it may be that over the course of seven years your child will fall out with the same child or group of children. At Rode Heath we have very few instances of ‘bullying.’ Our definition of bullying is ‘several instances of negative behaviour, whether verbal, physical or emotional, on purpose over several days/ weeks.’ As a school we acknowledge that the main cause of anxiety for our pupils is when they have fallen out with their peers and that this then causes anxiety for parents too. We ensure all staff are vigilant and trained regularly in order to safeguard our children from both bullying in school as well as online. We have regular e-safety lessons and assemblies in school and the recent sharing of the CEOP videos at the start of the key stage 2 sharing assemblies, has hopefully equipped and informed you as parents more as to the current dangers of internet use.</p> <p>As a school we do pride ourselves in having a safe, nurturing environment for your children and we do expect our pupils to be respectful, courteous and well- disciplined at all times. We work hard to maintain our ‘outstanding’ Ofsted grade for behaviour and safety and want to assure all parents and carers that any friendship issues or instances of bullying will be taken seriously and dealt with swiftly.</p>
<p>Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND)</p>	<p>Although small in number, parents of those pupils with an additional need all felt the school supported their child to succeed.</p> <p>Since the reduction in budget and TA support, we have looked at ways in which we can maintain our support for pupils who need additional support, either temporarily or for the longer term. We are really pleased that the measures we have put in place are meeting the needs of our children and expectations of parents.</p>
<p>Communication and information</p> <p>‘The school lets me know how my child is doing’</p>	<p>As with previous parent surveys, communication, particularly communication as to how pupils are faring academically, remains an area in which some parents feel we could further improve.</p> <p>Our open mornings early on in the school year are intended to give parents a greater insight to the teaching methods we now use to teach the rudiments of reading, writing and mathematics and a greater majority of parents felt better equipped to help their child with their academic work. We also hope that our weekly ‘Continuing the Learning Journey’ document that can be found on your child’s class page on the school website, gives you an overview as to what your child will be covering and learning about.</p> <p>Also on the website are many useful links to websites that can support your child’s learning journey.</p> <p>Log in details to Education City and Times Tables Rock Stars can also be found in the front of your child’s reading record.</p> <p>Parents who wish to track their child’s success on Accelerated Reader (years 2-6) can sign up to email alerts as to when their child has taken a quiz on a book read and can access the results of that quiz. A letter with details of how to do this should be issued when your child starts on Accelerated Reader. Any parents who do not have the relevant information,</p>



	<p>but who wish to sign up for this facility, please email the school office FAO Mrs Woollam.</p> <p>Communication on a more general note is usually through the monthly newsletter. We do try really hard to give parents lots of warning about pertinent dates, and try to avoid at all costs, changing or cancelling events. Staff have now all been shown how to send text messages and we do try to keep you informed as much as possible.</p>
Other Comments	
Allergies & Nuts	The school kitchen has been nut free for many years, however the school only became totally nut free 2.5 years ago when a child was found to have a severe nut allergy. We intend to frequently remind parents about this in the monthly newsletter, particularly about the fact that 'may contain nut' items also can not be allowed for snacks or in lunchboxes.
Healthy Snacks	As a school, we want our children to be fit and healthy in body and mind. We offer free fruit on a daily basis to our key stage 1 children. Healthy snacks are always a contentious issue and many parents feel they should be allowed to determine what their child has for snack. We agree that this choice should be made by parents and educate our children to know what proportion of 'treats' they should eat in comparison to other food groups. All we ask is that snacks are relatively small, nut trace free and where possible sent in reusable packaging.
We would like to see more emphasis on physical activities.	PE is a statutory subject and all pupils should have 2 PE sessions a week. The only disruption to PE hall slots is in the run up to Christmas when the weather is not suitable for outdoor PE. We have recently introduced an afternoon break for key stage 2 pupils and have started with 10 active minutes during this break. Once the daily mile track has been put in place over Easter, we will be expecting all classes to complete this on the days that they do not have PE.
I would like some more focus on encouraging well-being and emotional resilience.	We currently have 3 well-being interventions taking place for groups of children who we feel will benefit. Our mindfulness programme as yet has not been rolled out into every classroom and this is an area that we would like to develop next academic year. With the reduction in budget and loss of TAs, we are very conscious of starting something that we cannot sustain, but are looking at ways in which we can move forward as a school with this.
Would be great to see after school activities that reception children can enrol in.	We open up some after school activities to reception in the spring and summer terms. We feel lots of reception children are shattered from a full day in school and they are likely to get more out of extra curricular activities the older they are.
I do feel that sometimes the amount of homework is too much.	Homework is an area that many people, including teachers, have strong opinions on. However, when asked directly in the last parent survey, 75% of parents said they felt their child should receive homework. We are constantly looking and comparing our homework policy to other schools and we do send out less homework than many of the schools locally. We feel the balance is right in order to support learning and the gradual increase as your child progresses through the school necessary in order to get children to take responsibility for their own learning, as well as prepare them for High School.



Once again we thank you for supporting us and your child in their educational journey. We truly value our relationship with parents and carers and ask that if you do have any concerns, no matter how small, that you come and talk to a relevant member of staff or senior leader.

It's the best thing that could have happened getting accepted into this school. The support from the teachers is beyond expectations and I couldn't thank them enough for their work.

Rode Heath school continues to provide wonderful, varied and exciting learning opportunities for our daughter. The teaching continues to be at the highest level of excellence.

I also feel that the school could encourage more children to bring a healthy snack. More communication is needed regarding the nut allergy issue. I was unaware the school was nut free until I received a text. This should be a regular feature in the newsletter and could help to encourage more healthy snacks.

I feel that my child is valued, encouraged and progress with learning is clear.

Rode Heath was our back up option when we originally chose it as we had been told that our 1st choice would not be guaranteed. How wrong we were, Rode Heath Primary is an amazing school. We are lucky to have been part of the school with our child, and he has been lucky to have gone there.

We are incredibly grateful to the school and staff who have and continue to work with our son's personal and academic development. We have seen a huge improvement and changes in his development and are very proud and pleased with the school and all involved in his performance. We could not ask more for a better environment that the school have created to encourage our son and other children to feel safe, cared for and welcomed.

Love this school. Can't fault any aspect. The Curriculum is good and behaviour is excellent. Staff are friendly and approachable.

