



Monday 15 January 2018

Dear parents and carers,

It has been wonderful to welcome the children back to school for the start of a brand new term. All of the staff are very excited about the variety of learning experiences we have planned for your children to enjoy over the coming months. Details can be found by referring to the curriculum letters which were sent out last week and today. You can also view these by visiting the "curriculum letters" section of the school website.

In September, it was my absolute pleasure to meet with parents at various "meet and greet" events. During these, I asked for your views about the school. Then, in December, I met with some parents at the first parent partnership meeting of the academic year. In this letter, I hope to provide you with feedback about what you told me and how we, as a school, have responded, or intend to respond to your ideas and suggestions.

The first question I asked was "***what is great about this school?***"

Here are just some of the comments/responses:

- Opportunities to learn outside
- School is friendly
- Positive impact on children's well-being
- Letting kids be kids
- Children have pride in their learning
- High standards
- Enthusiasm of all the teachers is infectious
- Children are happy and want to come to school

What a wonderful list of great things about our school!

Since the start of the school year, the staff here have worked together to unpick our shared vision. We have talked about what is important to our school and why. One of the things we all agree on is the importance of having a positive, optimistic culture in school; a happy school. Strong relationships are a vital part of achieving this. Your comments about what you value in our school fit beautifully with this shared aim and, with this culture of positivity we can continue to achieve excellence and high standards in all areas of school life.

Over the page is a table listing some of the comments, ideas and suggestions made and what we have done, or will do, in response to these.

Comment, idea or suggestion	What we have done or will do
<i>Having to wait a long time for uniform</i>	A new online ordering system for school uniform will soon be introduced. Further information will follow soon.
<i>Have a school Facebook page</i>	We have now created a school Facebook page which you can “like” or “follow” by going to www.facebook.com/BostonWestAcademy . On this page (in the same way as we do on Twitter) we will share news, events and information.
<i>Parent questionnaires to gather views of parents who can't come to meetings</i>	Dates of meetings will be given in advance and parents who cannot attend will be encouraged to contribute by email. Meetings will be held at different times of the day (see next parent partnership meeting below) so that as many parents who would like to attend are able to do so. Questionnaires will also be used to gather views. Parents are invited to make use of the “suggestions” box located in the school entrance foyer.
<i>Some aspects of communication could be improved</i>	Starting next week, we will introduce a “letter day” – one day of the week when <u>all letters</u> will be sent home. This should help you to know when to check your child’s book bag! The day we have decided all letters will be sent home is Thursday. There may be the odd occasion when a letter is sent on a different day of the week but we will do our best to try to keep this to an absolute minimum. To save paper (and the environment) we are planning to introduce a new electronic letter system meaning that letters from school will be emailed to parents. There will still be the option to receive paper letters, if preferred. Teachers will try to give as much notice as possible when sending out letters and we will try to reduce the amount of letters we send. All letters will continue to be available to download from the “letters” section of the school website. Reminders will be given using Twitter and Facebook and we will be investigating use of SMS text messages in the future too. Please remember to look at the notice board outside the main entrance. We will continue to put information here too.
<i>More opportunities for parents to meet socially eg coffee afternoon</i>	Following the Macmillan coffee morning in the autumn term, some parents expressed the view that it would be enjoyable to do something similar on a regular basis. We are therefore proposing to introduce a regular coffee and cake afternoon (ie once per half term) but need some parent volunteers to help organise this. If you are interested in helping, please contact us.

I hope this gives you an idea of some of the ways in which we have responded so far to your ideas and views. I am totally committed to working closely with you as partners in learning so that together we can maximise the opportunities your children have.

The next parent partnership meeting will be at **2pm on Thursday 15 March**. All parents and carers are invited to come along. I will let you know the topic for discussion nearer the time. For those parents who are not available but would like to share their views, please email info@bwacademy.co.uk.

Yours sincerely,



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