



Kelsey Primary School
 Chapel Street
 North Kelsey
 Market Rasen
 Lincolnshire
 LN7 6EJ
 Tel: 01652 678387
 Fax: 01652 678559
 Email: enquiries@kelsey.lincs.sch.uk
 Headteacher: Magnus Smedley

Dear children and parents

16th October 2014

Pre School newsletter

Parent / carers Survey

The pre-school has been operating for just over five weeks now. We recently conducted a survey of all families and the comments are recorded below, along with our own comments / actions. We would like to thank everyone for their responses - 83% responded.

Parent / carer comments - what we are doing well?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The way you greet the children in the mornings is warm and inviting. The ways of learning make it enjoyable and fun. I personally feel it is nice the way you have 1 to 1 with parents about how the children have been and what they have achieved that day. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Everything! My child has settled perfectly. She cannot wait to get to "big school" in the morning and is beginning to learn things already. She is growing in confidence everyday – thank you. She likes "playing with other children", "snack time" and circle time. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All good, staff friendly, enjoying the pre-school. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The teaching / learning instead of it being just about play. Children very happy they enjoy coming. Snack time Tapestry Like the fact that the doors do not open until a parent / carer is there. I actually like the fact pre-school is mixed in with the reception class as I feel it is bringing on my children. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall I think the pre-school is running well and smoothly – the children have settled into their routines and understand what is asked of them, e.g. place name into the basket, hang coat and ask to go to the toilet. I feel the children have built trusting relationships with their teachers – promoting social and emotional development. No child ever cries when coming to pre-school which I feel is a good sign. 	

Parent / carer comments - what can we improve on?	
Comment	Our response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nothing I can think off! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thank you
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Off the top off my head I cannot think of anything of significance but if I do at a later date I will be sure to let you know. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thank you – and please do contact us if anything comes to mind.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Push all children more – but all well. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will make sure all children are challenged with work, especially early phonics, literacy and numeracy but in the first few weeks getting the children settled is

	our priority.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Playground safety – rubber area, remove tyre, children in pre-school and reception have playtime together and not with Y1 and Y2. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are arranging to get the infants playground remodelled with a learning trail, seating and a low climbing wall with safety surfaces – we have applied for a grant and are waiting to hear. We feel that the children benefit from being together on the infant playground – we do not have any KS2 children with them, so it is only the younger children together, but we will keep an eye on this. We have made arrangements for the pre-school to eat and play separately at lunchtimes.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More equipment to be provided in the playground and at breaks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are arranging for more toys and PE equipment to be on the playground at break times.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It would be nice for the children to line up quietly and in an orderly fashion – they must learn to stand quietly in a line. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> They will! Again the first few weeks are focussed on getting children settled – but the whole thrust of the pre-school is to prepare children to enter reception and we will embed the routines over time.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Handover – discuss any issues away from other parents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If there were any serious issues we have a procedure to discuss in private, but we feel for a normal handover our informal system works well.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start time should be changed to 0850 for the pre-school as I have other children in school and it makes sense for them all to start together. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We understand the logic of this totally and in an ideal world we would do this. But the entrance lobby to class 1 would get awfully crowded with 30 reception and pre-school children plus families all in one go. We are trying to stagger the entrance to allow time and space for pre-school staff to talk to parents.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parking –becoming a problem especially in the mornings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We agree totally. We have made contact with local farmers and they have informally agreed to try and avoid Chapel Street during start and end of the day. We have also written to all parents pointing out that there is a large free car park 2 minutes' walk from the school.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Toys out in the playground. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are making arrangements for more toys and apparatus to be out in the playground.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All day sessions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is happening at Easter 2015.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall I am very happy with the pre-school other than having a few issues at the start which is to be expected as it is all new for everyone. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thank you – we all feel exactly the same.

Birth to 5 visit / inspection

We had a visit from Helen Rutherford (senior advisor for Birth to 5) on the 25th September to review the start of the pre-school and I am pleased to report it went very well and no issues were raised.

Helen will be visiting again on the morning of the 11th November, to spend time in class 1 with the pre-school and reception children; she said she would be happy to speak to any parents if they wished to. Please let me know if you would like to talk to her.

Numbers in the pre-school

- From September to Christmas we have between 4 and 7 children attending.
- From January to Easter this is rising to between 6 and 10 children attending.
- We currently have between 8 and 10 children booked in for after Easter for morning and afternoon sessions.

Next Steps

- From Easter 2015 onwards we are moving to fulltime provision including lunches – children can bring a pack up or you can order a hot school dinner (cost is £2.75 per child per day – to cover meals and supervision), if you bring a pack up the cost will be 50p per child per day).
- From September 2015 we will be opening the out of school club (0745 to 0900) and (1530 to 1800) to pre-school children (the delay is to allow staff time to complete required training).

Staffing and supervision

From Easter 2015 Mrs White (who currently works in the pre-school) will extend her hours to provide lunchtime supervision to the pre-school. The children will eat their lunch together in the classroom and then move to the outdoor area for play time. They will not be joining the rest of the school on the playgrounds as we feel this will be safer for them.

Parents evening

The whole school parents evening is on the 12th November from 1530 to 1830. We are including pre-school children in this. You will be sent a letter in due course to book an appointment.

Pre-School Committee Meeting

This will take place at Kelsey Primary School on the 27th November at 1730. It is a committee of the school's governing body and pre-school staff, along with Mr Smedley who will be discussing progress with the pre-school and next steps.

Any parent or guardian with a child in the pre-school or whose child will be joining soon is welcome to attend this meeting and have a direct say. If you cannot attend, but would like to comment please write a letter to:

- Mrs G. Beach
- Clerk to Governors Kelsey Primary School
- C/O Kelsey Primary School

If you could hand the letter to Mrs Blackburn at the school office – she will make sure it is passed on. Copies of the agenda and minutes are available from the school office – please just ask Mrs Blackburn or myself.

Currently the agenda is:

- Welcome and introductions.
- To adopt the terms of reference for the committee.
- To receive a report on the Pre-school from Mrs Clarke and Mrs Hurst.
- To discuss the recent survey of parents / carers in the pre-school.
- To allow time for parents / carers to contribute or to discuss any communication received from parents / carers.
- Planning of next steps and actions from the above.
- Date and time of next meeting.
- AOCB.

As always if you have any questions, queries, complaints or compliments please pop in and see me. I am nearly always on the playgrounds at the start and end of the day or just ring the front door bell.

With all best wishes

M. J. Smedley

Magnus Smedley