



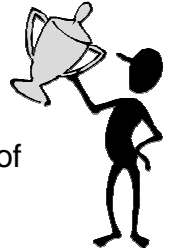
Newsletter

17th September



Parent feedback – Thank you very much to the parents who returned their questionnaires, 38%. Responding has meant that not only have you let us know how you feel about whether we are meeting the needs of you and your child/children but that you have been able to feed directly into the School Development Plan and the vision for the school over the next three years.

The results were overwhelmingly positive with strengths of the school being listed as: the school atmosphere and ethos, the outdoor environment, teaching and value, the strong PTA, the openness to new suggestions for improvement, newsletters, school trips, high expectations, parental involvement, the spirit, determination and dedication of staff, productions, after school activities and the school uniform.



Interestingly the areas for improvement noted were often ones already highlighted by staff, Governors and the School Council, which is great because it shows that we are all working along the same lines. Examples of areas mentioned are: the library, after school activities in the Infants, traffic, school building limitations, school meal waiting list, shortage of time to eat at lunchtime, school crossing, toilet facilities, drainage, cycling to school, information for new Reception parents, scratchy uniform.

If you would like to see the full results, please collect a sheet from the entrance hall or email a request and we will send one through to you.

Actions being taken include:

- ✓ a temporary library being set up as phase one of the development
- ✓ an art club for infants being investigated – this will run on a trial basis from half term to Christmas (Y2), more details to follow
- ✓ the junior toilets are to be decorated this term
- ✓ a cycle/scooter shed is to be built
- ✓ we have arranged a new Reception welcome evening (next Wednesday 7pm)
- ✓ alternatives to the scratchy badge on the uniform are being investigated



Cycle shed – parents were asked to choose between a cycle/scooter locked shed and a parent shelter and more chose the cycle shed. The Traffic and Travel Group will now be choosing a supplier and site for this.

Website – 72% of respondents have accessed the school website.

Homework – 11% of parents were dissatisfied with the homework, with some wishing that their children had more and some less! We have recently reviewed the homework policy and after it has been approved by the Governors' Learning and Teaching committee, it will be available on the school website.



Pupil feedback – Again the results were very positive, and I am pleased to report that all of the children feel that they are expected to do their best in class and over 90% enjoy school, feel that they are treated fairly, find the work interesting, enjoy the after-school activities (juniors), get help in class when they need it, think that the school is a good one and that it teaches them how to stay safe. A few children were unsure about who to talk to if they have a problem and we will address that issue in assemblies and PHSE lessons. 17% thought that they had too much homework but the rest all thought that they had the right amount. Just out of interest, quite a few children felt that 'being famous' was a career!

Thursday 24th September 7pm in the hall – Y5 Transition Information Meeting.

School website: www.bowdoncs.org.uk

Community News

Gymnastics, Trampolining, Rhythmic gymnastics – when we consulted with Trafford about our sports requirements, one of our requests was for more local gymnastic sessions. Trafford Gymnastics are holding some open days and these take place at Altrincham Leisure Centre on Saturday 19th September 10am – 12noon, George H Carnall Leisure Centre on Saturday 19th September 2pm – 4pm and Bowdon Sports Club on Sunday 20th September 11.30am to 1.30pm (this one is for Under 5s only).



Happy Language Learning

French Classes - La Jolie Ronde in Timperley have asked me to make you aware of their French activity classes, available for 3 to 10 year olds. They are offering a free trial session, contact Beatrice on 0161 972 0615.

Macclesfield Town Football Club is establishing a Technical Development Centre in Altrincham for Y6 boys, to develop their skill, technique and fitness. If you are interested, please collect an application form from the entrance hall.

PTA Dates – Here are the PTA dates for the year so far:

Sept. 25	12 noon	Ladies' Lunch
Nov. 7	11am	Good as New
Dec. 5	12 noon	Christmas Fair
Jan. 12		Bags 2 School
Jan. 23	7.30pm	Winter Ball
Feb. 4	7pm	Beetle Drive
March 18		Fashion Night
April 24		Good As New (tbc)
May 14		Race Night/Auction (tbc)
May 20		Bags 2 School
June 26	2pm	Treasure Hunt
July 8	6pm	Lower Junior Disco
July 10	2pm	Summer Fair
July 15	7pm	Upper Junior Disco

PTA Meetings

Sept. 22	7.30 AGM
<i>Come along, find out more about the PTA and enjoy a glass of wine with us</i>	
Nov. 17	7.30
Jan. 19	7.30
March 2	7.30
April 20	7.30
June 22	7.30



Help Needed – We need people to join the fundraising party for the Community Classroom and the library. As soon as we raise the money, we can get started with the building. This classroom will make a tremendous difference to the school. Firstly, we can move the Breakfast Club in here and it will not only be much easier for parents to drop off their children, but it will mean that we can create a lovely library in their current room. The room can be used by the school (music lessons, group work, pond and environment work, meetings etc) and it will also be available for use by the community. We need about £75,000 for the two projects but a good start has been made with a £35,000 grant from Extended Schools in Trafford. Does anyone have any good fundraising ideas or grant contacts? Are you able to help with this project, which will have a limited time span? If you have skills, energy, enthusiasm or all three we would love you to join the group that is being led by your Parent Governor and Chair of the Buildings committee – Jane Nicholson. Please contact her hutchinsonjane3@hotmail.com if you are able to help.

Calling parents (especially men) who enjoy singing – this may be rather ambitious but I would love to include an item with full choir in the Carol Service. The Upper Junior choir will sing the tune but we need altos (lower voice women), tenors (higher voice men – like Pavarotti!) and basses (lower voice men) for the other parts. Don't worry if you have not sung in a choir before or not sung since school because we would only need to learn one or possibly two carols, so there is plenty of time to practise. We could hold rehearsals for an hour or so one evening a week and then retire to a local hostelry for refreshments following our hard work. If you are a soprano (high voice) do come along too, you will be able to support the children with the descant parts. Please see Mrs Martin.



Finally, a plea from the Y6 School Managers, who are responsible for tidying away the Reception outdoor toys at the end of each afternoon; could parents please ensure that the children and their younger brothers and sisters do not get the toys out again after school. Thank you.