

Questions from Parents:

7 maybe 8? Children have left school since September, which is 10% of the school population, have the school conducted exit interviews with the parents of these children to understand why they have left? What is being done to address this? Other children are also looking to move schools for several reasons, so this is an ongoing concern to parents, reasons include things such as poor communication/not being listened to by school, lack of sporting opportunities and/or facilities, poor academic progress/support, poor parental support/no consistency in feedback and ongoing monitoring of academic progress, poor follow up on issues with parents.

7 children have left since September 20– I have spoken to all of the parents. The majority had found the decision very difficult but felt that our resources, particularly when it comes to PE didn't match those in a bigger school. There is always room for improvement, and we are looking at different ways we can improve our PE and Sports' provision.

We are having major issues with our field – it's often flooded. Moving forward we are planning on renting the village hall two days a week all year instead of just from October to March to ensure we can use it if the field is too muddy or flooded. I want our PE lessons to be outside whenever possible. We are also in the process of contacting the Dioceses who we rent the field off to see if they can improve the drainage. If this isn't possible, we going to approach village hall committee to see if they would put a fence up so we could use the carpark on dry days. Again, this may not be possible because of the funding they received from the lottery fund.

The children have raised nearly £300 which they are going to use to buy some new equipment for play and lunchtime. We also have £500 which was provided by the parish council.

Once we are out of COVID restrictions the children will be having lots of opportunities to compete in sports competition – in school, across the trust and within our Middlewich partnership. We will also be also to attend sporting events at our local high schools. I also want to develop better links with our local high schools, so our children have more opportunities to attend drama, art and science workshops. As a school we also need to ensure that we enhance the children's learning experiences with trips, workshops, visitors and plenty of opportunities to work outside. Although hasn't been possible because of COVID, I know from parents that this wasn't a strength of the school before COVID hit.

We have 12 children starting Reception in September and another one the waiting list. Imogen joined Hedgehogs last week and we have another two children who will be joining Squirrels in September – both were recommended by parents. I have every faith that new children will join us, but that's not really the point. Our children should stay with us until the end of Year 6.

As Principal, part of my role is monitoring standards across the school and ensuring that the teachers' judgements are accurate through moderation of work. We also moderate work across the trust and from time to time our standards are externally moderated too.

We are going to be introducing a pro-forma for teachers and parents to complete during our parent conferences so there is a clear picture of what every child has achieved both in school and at home. It will also involve setting some targets for the children to work on over the next term. These will be completed at the meeting and sent home the next day.

I am not aware of any parents who are thinking about leaving us or unhappy with the way I have dealt with an issue. It's important that they come and talk to me or Mrs Badger.

Homework – Homework items feel more like homework for parents rather than for the children and can become a craft competition. For parents with more than 1 child in school, in different year groups, there is 2 items to complete per half term per child, if you work full time and are not home until 6pm in the evening, this only leaves weekends to complete the homework, which is needed for family and downtime, not homework battles!

a. Could there be the option for a homework club in school or could homework be more set activity based/straightforward rather than creative?

I know that parents either love or hate these, but for us it's important that we provide children with a list of things they can choose from so they can choose to do something which excite them. There is NO expectation to complete all of the tasks – just one or two over the term. If your child can think of something else, they would rather do which links to the study theme, that's wonderful. It's important that we give every child the opportunity to do something which excites them, so they have the chance to let their light shine. The last thing we want are homework battles!

We can arrange a homework club for September but I would much rather provide more clubs which the children will enjoy such as Mad Science, dance and drama and an art club.

Lack of sports equipment for PE. Since the introduction of Olympic legacy sports funding for Primary schools in 2013, the school has received around £16K per year. Warmingham have previously chosen to spend this on external support rather than upskilling the staff and investing in sports equipment, as a result the school now have a very limited range of sports equipment available to be used, (Sporting Coaching North West used to bring the equipment with them when they were the sports partner for the school). What do school intend to do to address this?

As a trust we have used the majority of our funding to invest in a PE teachers to deliver our lessons. This accounts for a significant proportion of our allocated fund. Mr Friel, and Mr Dooley in the past have lead staff meetings to enhance the staff PE skills.

As Miss Turrell will be teaching full time next term, we are the process of appointing another PE teacher to work with Mr Friel. We often share resources across the trust, and for a small school like Warmingham this means we have access to more resources. Mr Friel is in the process of completing an audit across the trust.

Mr Friel has responded to the of questions which we raised:

a. For example, there are no rounders or cricket bats and tennis racquets have to be used instead

We do have rounders bat but no cricket bats and yes sometimes we use tennis bats. The whole unit "striking and fielding" is geared towards building up hand eye co-ordination, reflex and reaction times as well as throwing and catching so from a national curriculum perspective we could use a shovel as a bat and still achieve the same learning outcome. I've used tennis racquets for rounders since I've started teaching as they have a larger surface area to hit the ball which helps the KS1 children and general lower abilities so we are catering for all abilities by differentiating the racket size.

b. No hockey sticks (still using old plastic sticks)

All primary schools are encouraged to use the double-sided plastic sticks as a starting point for all children in primary school before graduating onto using the wooden ones. I've been to a number of tournaments over the years and very few allow schools to use the wooden sticks as not a lot actually have them. We do have access to wooden ones at Bunbury which can be brought to Warmingham when needed.

c. No football goals

We do have two large pop up goals that I use frequently in the hall but unfortunately, we are limited in terms of football indoors for safety reasons. We are looking into buying some nets to improve our provision.

d. Netball – do we still have posts/bibs

We do have two posts up in the yard which is typical of any primary school and yes we have bibs in the hall.

e. How can school encourage children to participate in sport whilst they have very little equipment available?

Participation is not about equipment. Participation firstly comes from an enthusiastic household in terms of a love for sport and competition. If a child does not participate in sport outside of school, then we are going to struggle to motivate them.

From a school perspective, we encourage children through:

1. Positive praise during lessons.
2. Ensure that our planning is up to standard through our planning tool which we've invested in "PE passport"
3. Aiming to achieve our school games mark during the next academic year which we've now entered into.
4. Taking part in competitive sport through our sports partnership which we will be doing in the next academic year.
5. Taking part in intra-house competitions which we will be doing in the next academic year.
6. Taking part in RCSAT competitions which we will be doing in the next academic year.

f. Sports clubs are also very limited used to have at least 2 different clubs available per week for both key stages, do school intend to go back to this and how can this be done with having Mr Friel on site only 1 day per week?

We are in the process of appointing a new PE teacher who will be working along side Mr Friel. Miss Turrell has also been running some sporting clubs and will continue to do to.

In September, I hope to have:

1. Nantwich Town FC for football.
2. Stage Stars for Dance.
3. Hopefully a gymnastics company.
4. And I'll be running one also.

This covers all three strands of the national curriculum: Dance, Gymnastics and Games. I know that Mrs Appleby is also looking into providing a range of other clubs for the children to access such as the chess club.

Lack of opportunity to speak with class teacher for Years 3, 4, 5 and 6. The parents of children in R and Y1 & 2 do get to see/speak with class teacher morning and evening, could a KS2 teacher be

on playground morning and evening to speak with if required? I understand COVID restrictions however Mrs Marsden and Mrs Appleby are always on playground so why can class teachers not be?

The teachers are now bringing the children out at the end of each day. Some teachers may also be able to come out at the start of the day, depending on our staffing levels as the majority of the teachers will be teaching from 8:45am. Once the COVID restrictions are relaxed and we can go back to one pick up and drop off time, the teachers will be able to come out onto the playground more.

Can we ask that the drop off and pick up times stay the same - parking is much easier.

From September, if COVID restrictions relax parents will be able to bring their child into school from 8:45 to 9:00am. The children will be going straight into class when they arrive.

Will the children be back on the playground soon? - as Winter in the woods is ruining the children's shoes.

The children were moved to the back of the school after a child tried to climb over the low fence at the front of the school. A risk assessment was completed. Until we can replace the wall and fencing at the front of the school with a much higher fence, the children won't be able to play at the front of the school.

The children are a lot safer at the back of the school. Teachers are able to see all of the children playing and the children have access to the woodland area and the trim trail which they love.

The wooden pagoda isn't used much by the children – other than climbing over it. It is also starting to rot. Removing it would mean that the children will have a larger playground area.

Will Miss Rauer continue to teach yr 6 next year please?

Class Arrangement for next year:

Otters – Mrs Allen

Hedgehogs – Mrs Bugliarello with Miss Killilea

Squirrels – Miss Turrell with Mrs Knight

Badgers – Miss Rauer with Miss Morris

What fun activities have we got for Year 6 leavers?

1. After school party – pizza, rounders against the teachers and a water fight.
2. Leavers Service at St Leonard's for Y6 parents and children. The PTA have funded some autograph books which all the staff and children will sign. These will be presented to them with their leavers Bible at the service.
3. Chemistry with Cabbage – Day of science investigations.