



....to be outstanding in every aspect, pushing the boundaries of excellence.....

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Feedback from parent/carer questionnaire October 2013

At the parent/carer meetings in October, we asked parents/carers how they felt about the transition to their child's new year group, how they feel about supporting homework and general hopes and concerns for the year.

We always have very high attendance at parent/carer meetings, with many classes having 100% engagement with the process. Our overall figure for attendance at parent/carer meetings in October 2013 was 96%.

We received 166 responses from parents/carers in Years 1-6:

24/59 – Y6

15/30 – Y5

14/30 – Y4

26/60 – Y3

45/90 – Y2

41/90 – Y1

There are other responses for KS1 which have been written on KS2 sheets, so the true figure for KS1 is higher.

Transition to a new year group

The responses were overwhelmingly positive about transition. Some comments include:

- very easy transition and timely information
- it would have been nice to go in on the first day,some children were upset but understand why it needed to be done this way logistically
- notification of teacher before the end of summer term was helpful
- he likes his teacher and had spent time with her previously which helped
- fine, loves being in KS2, likes the focus on more academic based work
- fairly easy – which is encouraging as this is a particular difficulty.....

Most feedback sheets stated 'good' or 'fine' without a comment in answer to 'How has your child found the transition?'

We had a particular challenge this year due to our Y1 classes being in the 'wrong' place. Typically, Y1 children are received directly into the classroom. This has not been possible this year due to the ongoing building works – first at West Norwood, now at Streatham. We took the decision to prioritise keeping the year groups together which is why the Y1 classes are on the first floor. This makes for unusual circulation around the building which is temporary.

When we are again across two sites, classes will be in the 'correct' places. Members of SLT have spoken to individual parents/carers whose children have found this especially difficult. Even so, Y1

parents/carers were very complimentary in their feedback on the way the situation has been handled. There were no issues raised in other year groups.

Homework

There are two views about homework! One view is that children do not get enough homework, and the other view is that children have too much homework! At Julian's, we work within National guidelines, and try to ensure that there is an element of challenge for children. This term, we have now begun to offer homework support for those children who find it the most challenging, as a response to the feedback received. When speaking to parents/carers who would like to do more homework with their children, we signpost to workbooks which can be purchased.

Specific comments were around wanting to know more about the Maths strategies we use in school, and greater feedback from teachers on homework. We continue to offer Maths Workshops for parents/carers and recognise that this remains an area which parents/carers appreciate support. We also introduced Mathematics last year for KS2, which is still running. This is a support for both parents/carers and children in keeping their maths skills up to date.

We offer Reading and Phonics workshops for KS1 parents/carers, and we will introduce Grammar workshops this term for KS2 parents/carers.

In response to feedback on homework, all homework should be marked every week. You will only be contacted if the homework is surprising – if a child has made lots of mistakes or if they have really excelled at a topic. If parents/carers would like more detailed feedback about homework, they will need to make an appointment with the class teacher.

Research shows that ANY engagement with learning at home has a beneficial effect on children's attitudes to learning. We are always looking at ways to improve homework and its accessibility. The use of Play Away Maths in KS2 is being reviewed in light of some comments made on the questionnaires.

Please feel reassured that we take your comments very seriously and we do act on the feedback given. Thank you for your continued support in providing us with feedback.

Year 3 visit the British Museum



On Monday 27th January 3G visited the British Museum to find out more about the Romans.



The children saw and drew sketches of many interesting artefacts ranging from Roman jewellery and armour to household goods. They really enjoyed their day out and cannot wait to find out more!



Many thanks to the parents who volunteered their time to accompany the class.



Year 1 Zoo Lab

Year one were really excited when Zoo Lab came to visit our classes last week. We met some amazing animals from the rainforest, including a tarantula, a Bearded Dragon lizard, a giant African land snail and a very jumpy White Tree Frog!



All the children were given the chance to look at the animals and ask questions about them and those brave enough were able to hold them. Their handler Sophie was really impressed with what the children had already learned about the rainforest's habitat and animals.



As if that wasn't enough excitement for one week, we were visited on Friday by Explorer Dan who took us on an incredible journey to Africa in search of the golden coat. His fantastic story telling skills certainly had the children enthralled!

Year 2 visit to the London Transport museum



Year 2 thoroughly enjoyed their trip to the London Transport Museum. It was a great exploration of the capital's transport systems over the past 100 years.

A magical lady in silver took the children back to 1890 through a time tunnel, where they learned about trams, horse-drawn vehicles, and children picking up dung with the bare hands for extra money in the Haymarket! The children practised sitting like Victorians on the new underground: ladies perched on the front of seats with hands on knees, gentlemen leaning back comfortably. The children even tried these positions on the real bus home!



The children behaved themselves really well throughout the day and on the bus journey there and back.



Year 3C

This week, Year 3 had the opportunity to work with the CLC. The children were able to practise their computer programming skills using a programme called Scratch.

The children enjoy the morning and learned how to write an algorithm, as well how to fix and debug and programme.

Have a lovely weekend

Alison Moller