

Dear Parents

Re: Survey for Trent Governors



I am writing to thank you for taking the time to answer our questions and giving us some extra feedback about how the school is doing. I apologise for a general reply but this is to maintain your anonymity. I hope that this general letter will go some way to answer the points you raised.

Your responses were forwarded anonymously to one of Trent's Governors who then shared the results with me. The comments were positive overall; however homework seemed to be causing concern to many of you.

By sending out the Home Learning folders on a Friday and not expecting them back until the Wednesday morning we hope that this gives you sufficient time to break up the learning into manageable chunks, maybe only 15-20 minutes a day, 3-4 times a week. We certainly value, as much as you do, those important hours of family time, especially over the weekend. Should your child be struggling to complete the whole of the work set, it is much better to have a focussed quarter of an hour of learning each day and then let the teacher know if there is anything unfinished. Alternatively, maybe consider your child stopping for Teatime club to spend focussed learning time on their homework activities, even if it is only one evening a week.

In general, please chat with the class teacher about homework: too much or too little. They want it to be helpful and fun!

One or two people wondered how best to communicate with the teachers. Emailing Mrs Ring on [office@trent.barnetmail.net](mailto:office@trent.barnetmail.net) is particularly useful. Mrs Ring will always pass on the message and, for more complex issues, she will make an appointment for you to speak with the class teacher at a good time for all concerned. Sometimes a simple phone call can be the best way to talk. Please bear in mind that teachers are in class all day!

Interestingly, the Governors' Fund was mentioned by a few people. Please follow the link below to find out (from our website) exactly what it is and how necessary it is to the school. It is certainly not to pay the Governors, who are all hard-working volunteers!

<http://trentceprimaryschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Governors'-Fund.pdf>

In some way or another there must almost 30 times the Governors meet over the year, in groups or as a whole body. Additionally, they attend training to ensure they are up-to-date with their responsibilities. They are unflinching in their dedication to supporting the whole community of Trent, from the youngest Reception child to the most senior member of staff! When we next meet as the Governing Body we will discuss how best parents can get to know all that the Governors do over the year.

With regard to small group work, many of your children have dedicated time with the class teacher or a teaching assistant; this happens so regularly that it is part of every class daily routine. Your child may not see it worthy of mentioning to you but it is vital to the teacher's assessment! I am pleased that, for most children, they don't feel as though they are being singled out.

Lastly, thank you for your many ideas. I will be discussing the amalgamated responses you gave with the staff in the hope that we can see some of those ideas implemented.

Once again, thank you for helping Trent to continue to improve further. The Governor concerned has found your comments very helpful and interesting; they will be shared with the Governing Body in July. Thank you for helping us to fulfil part of the Governors' obligations to Ofsted and our lovely school.

With my best wishes

Louise Yarwood