



Parent Voice 2015

Understanding the curriculum		
What works well	Even better if	What we are going to do
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School newsletter • Curriculum newsletter each half term • Communication between parents and teachers • Twitter • Vimeo • Workshops • Family Fridays • School website • Reading with parents • Parents' meetings • Parents' Forum • Music assembly 	Increase all staff confidence in using Twitter to share information about the curriculum	There will be more training for teachers and TAs about how to use Twitter so all classes are tweeting.
	Homework for all year groups	We have discussed this at Parent Forum.
	Information about how to help in maths	We are starting to run the Ocean Maths Project with different year groups. We will also include maths activities as part of Family Fridays. If you go to www.vimeo.com/columbiaschool there are examples of how to do maths calculations.
	Parents informed about how class is being split for sessions such as maths and phonics.	In the future, when we are splitting classes for different lessons, we will inform parents.
	Information about guided reading	At the start of the year, we will explain guided reading to parents in the class meeting.
	More detailed curriculum information	We are always refining our curriculum newsletters so they include just the right amount of information.
	Internet and twitter not available to all parents	Information is also shared in the curriculum newsletter and the school news letter.
	Meetings after school for working parents	We will run one meeting after school every half term starting after Easter.

Additional support for children/ families		
What works well	Even better if	What we are going to do
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshops • Library sessions for parents and children • "Strengthening families, strengthening communities" • "Next steps to employment" • "Building Skills and Confidence" • Learning mentor support • Family Fridays • ESOL classes 	There was more advertising to let parents know when courses and activities are running	We let parents know on the newsletter what the meetings for the following half term will be. We send a flyer on the Tuesday before the activity and a text on the day. We will also put a poster on the notice board in the lobby.
	The Parents' Room was available at all times	We will make sure the Parents' Room is unlocked so it can be used by parents at all times.
	There were twilights for working parents	We will run one meeting after school every half term starting after Easter.
	There was more information on how pupils who don't have English as an additional language (EAL) are supported.	We can include a session in Family Fridays about how we support EAL pupils and what you can do to help at home.

School Building/ Environment		
What works well	Even better if	What we are going to do
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friendly environment • Artwork • Wonderful looking classrooms • Playground works well. Looking forward to the new playground • School is well maintained • Parents' Room • Feels safe • Lift is available 	The bigger gate was left open in the morning rather than the small one. It gets very crowded in the morning.	Friends of Columbia are raising money for a new entrance gate. When we have the new gate we will change the main entrance of the school to the big gate rather than the small one.
	The children's toilets were in a better condition.	We are allocating money in next year's budget to refurbish the bottom floor toilet.
	The back gate was closed at 9.05 rather than 9.00.	The back gate is closed at 9.00 for safety reasons.
	Reception only have one entrance - it can get very congested.	It is important to only have one entrance for safety reasons.

Out of hours learning - clubs and activities		
What works well	Even better if	What we are going to do
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast club • After school clubs • Yoga sessions for younger children • An expert teaching Bollywood Dance • Lunchtime clubs • Range of clubs • Different clubs for different key stages • Forest school • Museum trips 	Breakfast club started at 7.30	We are going to trial starting breakfast club at 7.45 after Easter to see how much demand there is.
	There were more clubs to avoid over subscription	We run as many clubs as we can manage and are improving our offer each year.
	There was more publicity over what is available.	Clubs are published to parents in the School Newsletter the term before. Children are told in classes.
	Parents with specialist skills could come in and help with clubs.	We will send a letter home when we are starting a new club asking for help.
	Library was open earlier.	Library starts at the end of the school day.
	After school was run at Columbia instead of St Matthias.	We will be starting an After School Play Centre in September 2015. We will be running the club for a trial period of a year.

Home-school communication		
What works well	Even better if	What we are going to do
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Texts • Website • Vimeo • Letters in book bags • Parents' Evening • Teachers discuss issues with parents privately • Senior staff greeting parents in the morning • Senior staff giving information about meetings happening during the day • Twitter • Phone calls • Parent Voice • Coffee Morning • Headteacher available for discussion • Family Fridays 	We keep doing the same!	We will!
	There was more feedback from class teachers in reading diaries	We will discuss with staff how much information they record in reading diaries and make sure it is consistent.
	School feedback to parents about Parent Voice!	Here it is!
	Children don't bring home the same reading book	Younger children have the same guided reading book for a week. Older children might take more than one week to read their guided reading book. Children can change their class reading books in class when they finish them. Children visit the library weekly when they can also choose a book. If your child is bringing the same book home for a long period of time, please check with the teacher.
	There were meetings in the evening for working parents.	We will run one meeting after school every half term starting after Easter.

How welcoming is our school?		
What works well	Even better if	What we are going to do
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very welcoming • Head is very friendly and always available to listen • Office staff are brilliant • Presented issues are addressed • Coffee mornings • Music assemblies • Providing interpreters • Entering and leaving school runs smoothly • Reha and Verna welcoming parents • Staff and head are very approachable • Senior staff in the playground before and after school • Staff always willing to help 	<p>There were more family courses.</p>	<p>Please let us know if you have any suggestions for Family Fridays.</p>

Getting involved in school life		
What works well	Even better if	What we are going to do
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coffee Morning • Reha and Verna • Forest School • Friends of Columbia • Texts to parents about what is happening in school • Parent Forum • Family Learning Day • Toy library • Family Fridays • Parents' Workshops • Nature Club • Music Assembly 	There were more posters promoting courses on offer to parents.	We will display the courses on offer to parents on the notice boards around school.
	Parent Forum should become more formalised and there should be a representative for each class.	We tried this method and it seemed more effective and inclusive to offer the forum to all parents.
	Parents were able to share their skills and experiences more in school.	We will send a letter home when we are starting a new club/ project asking for help.
	There were more opportunities to volunteer.	As above
	There were crèche facilities	We aim to provide crèche facilities for as many workshops as possible.
	There were more opportunities for working parents.	We will run one meeting after school every half term starting after Easter.

Supporting children's learning and development

What works well	Even better if	What we are going to do
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bringing books home • Staff listen to parents and respond quickly to suggestions • Attendance certificates • "How to help your child with homework" is very useful • Reading and phonics workshop was very useful • Forest School 	Homework showed how to help children with English and maths.	We discussed this at Parent Forum.
	There was more support for parents of children with Special Educational Needs.	We are setting up a parent support group for parents of children with autism. If this is successful, we will think of doing the same for other parents.
	There were computer classes.	At the moment, we don't have this facility.
	Parents were encouraged to get together and take children on trips at the weekend.	Reha and Verna sometimes take parents on trips at the weekend. We could discuss it at a Family Friday workshop about the local area.

School Meals/ Breakfast Club		
What works well	Even better if	What we are going to do
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Happy with school meals • Children enjoy school meals 	Breakfast club started at 7.30 for working parents.	We are going to trial starting breakfast club at 7.45 after the Easter holiday to see how much demand there is.
	Children didn't feel rushed to finish their lunch.	The Senior Leadership Team will monitor this situation and adjust the timetable if necessary.
	Dinners didn't run out of for the last class down.	Occasionally, the last class doesn't have as much choice as the first class. The classes take it in turns to be the last.
	Sweet puddings are not served every day.	There isn't a sweet pudding on offer every day.
	Children are encouraged to finish their food.	Children are encouraged to eat a variety of foods.
	Children were always allowed their choice of meal (sometimes they are not)	In order to have a balanced meal, children are not always allowed to have exactly their choice.

Developing links with the local community		
What works well	Even better if	What we are going to do
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School notice board • Verna and Reha • School newsletter • Text messages • Phone calls • Nature club 	There was a parents' online forum.	We prefer to discuss ideas face to face.
	Parents could come together and map out their knowledge of the local area.	We could do this as part of a Family Friday.
	More information about local services were shared.	As above.
	Parent groups mixed better.	We'll make an effort to help different parent groups mix in Family Fridays.

Is there anything else you would like to tell us?		
What works well	Even better if	What we are going to do
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall, school is doing an excellent job Family Fridays 	There was a suggestions box in the Reception Area.	We believe it's much better to talk to parents about their suggestions. Senior staff are always happy to talk to parents about their ideas. Just make an appointment with the office.
	Parents could facilitate extended activities.	This could be discussed at Family Fridays.
	After school club for literacy and numeracy.	We currently run an after school club for maths in Yr 5. If this is successful we might think of doing the same for literacy.