

14 January 2013

Dear Parent/Carer

Feedback from the parental questionnaire responses and plans for the use of the Harding/Parents Room

We thank those parents who found time to complete the parental questionnaire, which we sent to you towards the end of last term. Congratulations to the parents of Charlie in Herons who have won the £25 Tesco gift card – will Mum please collect from the office.

Responses were received from over one hundred parents. We value greatly the feedback we receive from parents and use the feedback to tackle any areas of concern, as well as to build on our strengths. We gave feedback on the responses to the questionnaire to parents who attended the Parents Forum in December, and a summary is provided below.

The most positive responses from parents to the questionnaire (with at least 94% of parents in agreement or in strong agreement with the statement) were:

- My child feels safe at this school (97% agree or strongly agree)
- My child is making enough progress at this school (94% agree or strongly agree)
- The school meets my child's particular needs (94% agree or strongly agree)
- The school ensures my child is well looked after (96% agree or strongly agree)
- My child is taught well at this school (96% agree or strongly agree)
- The school helps my child to develop skills in communication, reading, writing and mathematics (95% agree or strongly agree)
- The school helps me to support my child's learning (96% agree or strongly agree)
- The school responds well to my concerns (95% agree or strongly agree)
- The school keeps me well informed (96% agree or strongly agree)
- Overall I am happy with my child's experience at this school (97% agree or strongly agree)
- I would recommend this school to another parent (95% agree or strongly agree)

Overall responses to the small number of other statements showed 89% to 93% of parents agreeing or strongly agreeing with the statement. These are still high figures showing positive responses to the school's work.

The governors have compared the responses from parents to this recent questionnaire to the responses to identical questions sent out in March 2012. The responses to both questionnaires are very similar. This shows that the great majority of parents remain satisfied with the work of the school and we will continue to build on our strengths.

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We have also looked closely at responses from parents who said that we needed to do better and we will be addressing the small numbers of concerns which were raised.

Our next questionnaire to parents will be in April/May and we look forward to a large number of responses.

You may be aware that we received a grant in 2012 to develop a room to be used for parents and the community to support parents in helping their child/children learn. We are calling this room the Harding Room to recognise that it was the Harding Trust which provided the funding. The room is currently being used for activities with parents but we want to use it more fully. At the Parents Forum meeting in December we asked parents what they would like the room to be used for and received a number of suggestions. Colleagues at the school are developing the programme of activities to be offered, drawing on suggestions from parents, and will inform you shortly of what will take place. We hope that you will find value in the activities being organised.

We have worked in strong partnership with the Local Authority for a number of years and are pleased that Elmhurst is included, as one of a small number of schools in Aylesbury, in a major improvement project. The school and others will shortly see the strong benefit of being involved in this project, as it includes extra funding for the school, high quality development programmes for school staff and better support for parental programmes. I will keep you informed of the developments, which will all help improve the quality of provision offered to your child/children.

One of our main areas for improvement this year is focused on raising levels of pupils' attendance. We have looked at the attendance figures for the autumn term 2012 and compared these with those from the autumn term 2011. Attendance was better in autumn 2012 than in autumn 2011 and we thank you for your support in encouraging your child/children to attend school every day.

However, attendance levels in the Nursery and Reception years are too low and a cause for concern. We ask parents of children in these year groups to do all they can to encourage daily attendance and seek the school's help if you have problems. We want to work with you to help you children learn and make progress, but children who miss large amounts of school are at a disadvantage and will not make the progress of which they are capable.

I hope you child/children have a very successful 2013 at Elmhurst and look forward to seeing you at our future Parent Forum meetings.

Yours sincerely,

Dr David Gamble
Chair of Governors



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