

FROM THE HEADTEACHER...

Like a snail on its way to a garlic and herb sauce, the long winter days are slowly moving away and I can start to look forward to walking home in the light. I hope this means that the miserable weather we have been suffering recently is also heading for the exit – I must be getting old as I find myself thinking, “It’s never been as bad as this!” The Spring half term break is next week and I know everyone has been looking forward to it. Fingers crossed that we get good weather and all have a lovely break. I’ll see you back on Tuesday 28th February!

Iain C. Gilmore

THINKING SCHOOL ACCREDITATION

I’m delighted to announce that the University of Exeter has awarded us our Thinking School Accreditation! There are around 100 Thinking Schools in the country and we are only the second school in Portsmouth to get this award after The Portsmouth Academy. It really is a tribute to the hard work of children and staff here, especially our fabulous Thinking Drive Team.

The award means that we can use the official Thinking School logo and the University logo whenever we talk about thinking. I am told that we are getting a trophy and the full report will be with us after half term which I will put on the website for everyone to read.



Some early feedback told us that as parents, you really support our thinking word especially the Habits of Mind which have helped at school and at home. However the thinking maps are something that you would like some more parent-friendly information about and we’re working on this for next half term.



PARENTS’ SURVEY

Thank you to everyone who returned the survey and congratulations to the four lucky winners of a bottle of wine!

The full results are on the next side but the headlines are here:

- 98% of you think your child is taught well
- 96% of you think your child is well looked after
- 93% of you think your child is happy at school
- 95% of you think the school is well led and managed
- 93% of you think your child is safe at school

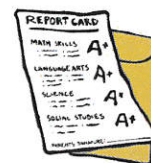


The three lowest areas are homework with 87% of you agreeing it is appropriate; dealing well with bullying with 83% of you agreeing or not knowing (as you have never had that issue) and 85% of you agreeing that you get enough information about progress.

We had our anti-bullying week last term when we introduced the terms “rude” and “mean” as well as bullying to make sure we all were talking about the same thing. We will carry on using these terms so we know when an incident is more than just an accident in the playground.



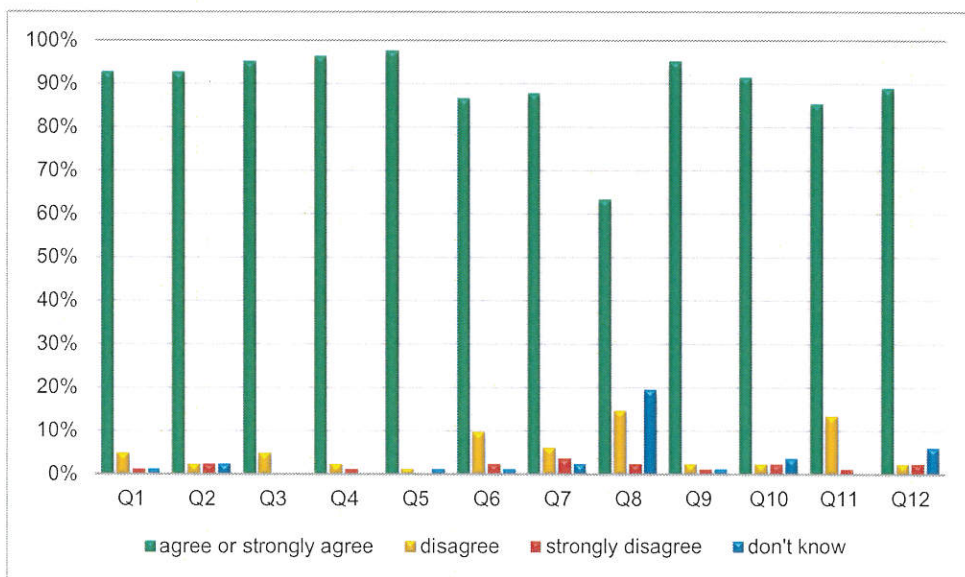
We have revised our annual reports and we hope this will give some clearer information on progress. I will talk to my team about how else we can let you know how well your child is doing at home in terms of their progress.



Finally, homework is always a thorny issue and it’s very hard to find a solution that works for everyone. Whilst some of you welcome homework, I know others of you think that it is wrong for junior school. Then again Year 7 parents often tell us they wish we had done more in Year 6! To make matter even more confusing, the research we use to tell us the best teaching approaches says primary school homework doesn’t make much difference to progress...all this means that I will have to take some time and think all this through.



Whilst I do that, here are the full results:



- Q1 My child is happy at school
- Q2 My child feels safe at school
- Q3 My child makes good progress at school
- Q4 My child is well looked after at this school
- Q5 MY child is taught well at this school
- Q6 My child receives appropriate homework
- Q7 This school ensures children are well behaved
- Q8 This school deals effectively with bullying
- Q9 This school is well led and managed
- Q10 This school responds to concerns I have
- Q11 I receive valuable information on progress
- Q12 I would recommend this school to another parent

TERM DATES

Spring Term 2017 Half Term: Monday 20 – Monday 27 February *children back Tuesday 28 February*
 Easter Break Monday 10 April – Friday 21 April
Summer Term 2017 Monday 24 April - Tuesday 25 July
 Half Term Monday 29 May – Monday 5 June *children back Tuesday 6 June*