

## **BISHOP LOVETT CE MIDDLE SCHOOL**

### **Parental Survey Results January 2008.**

141 families returned the form. This represents a return of 36% of the whole parent body. The percentages quoted below are percentages of the 141 parents replying and therefore do not represent a percentage of all parents.

There were three columns asking parents to indicate Agree, Not sure, Disagree, in respect of each statement. It is clear from information on the forms, that, for the most part, parents have ticked the column 'Not sure' when the particular issue is not applicable to them or is something they have no experience of, e.g. *The school deals well with my individual concerns or queries... when I write a letter*. The exception to this is from the section on the Student Planner, see below.

In several sections such as 'first day calling' or 'meetings with headteacher', the percentage of 'disagree' returns is very low e.g. 0.7% and 1.4% respectively. For the purposes of giving effective feedback, therefore, we have identified the areas where there does appear to be some confusion or concern.

- ❖ 35% were either *not sure* or did not know if there was a problem with **homework**.
- ❖ 38% were either *not sure* or did not know about what **merits** their children had been given.
- ❖ 7% were not happy about the Traffic Light letters regarding attendance.
- ❖ 11% were not happy about aspects of the reporting and assessment system.
- ❖ 7% said that their children did not bring home the Mitre newsletter each week.
- ❖ 33% said that they did not receive the Mitre via Email, the implication being that they would like to. The Mitre has been available by Email and on our website since April 2002. Please see below for further information.

44 families supplied written comments in the box provided and these were extremely helpful and informative. Some reflected individual concerns. For example two families felt that the first aid communication had not been good in particular cases. The following areas are ones where more than two families have expressed actual concerns or requests.

- ❖ 9 families expressed dissatisfaction with aspects of the reporting system. These were to do with things like frequency of parent interviews, uncertainty about pupil progress and/or homework.
- ❖ 5 families mentioned that they did not like the traffic light letters for attendance.
- ❖ 6 families mentioned that they would like more information about aspects of after-school clubs.
- ❖ 3 families said they would like information about holiday timetables.
- ❖ 4 families had a concern about the Mitre.
- ❖ 8 families wrote neutral or complimentary comments.

## **Explanations and Actions relating to areas of concern identified in survey**

### **Attendance System**

#### ***Explanation***

The traffic light system has been in place for over two years and we believe it has had a positive effect on attendance. It is a blunt but effective way of communicating to parents the status of their child's attendance. The main confusion for parents seems to occur in the autumn term when a child's attendance can drop below 85% on account of only a few days absence. If the absence is due to illness we always try to warn parents by telephone in advance of the red letter so that they are not unduly upset. If, however, the absence is due to a holiday we think it is important that parents are reminded of the adverse effect holidays in term time can have on children's education. We cannot interfere with the data generated letters in order to sift out ones we think might be 'unfair' because this would involve us in subjective judgements.

### **The Student Planner (Merits and Homework)**

#### ***Explanation***

We introduced a new style of student planner in October 2007. We think it has been very successful in that the pupils have taken care of them and value them more than they did the old ones. The class teachers check the planners every Thursday at form time. They look for the parental signature and to see if the individual pupils are writing down their homework.

#### **❖ *Merits***

The Merit count is at the back of the planner and you should be able to see how many merits your child has received. These merits are counted monthly by the class teacher and go forward toward the House merit count. We have recently realised that pupils in upper sets are not receiving as many merits as those in lower sets and we are about to address this issue with subject teachers.

#### **❖ *Homework***

Each pupil should receive homework for each core subject (English, maths, science), each week. Homework is given for other subjects but may not be on this systematic basis. If the class teacher identifies an on-going problem, either with the writing down of homework or with completion, they communicate with the year leader. If the problem cannot be easily resolved, the school will telephone the parent either to give information or to ask if the pupil can attend homework club.

### **ACTION**

Would all parents please examine the student planner each week. If your child appears not be getting core subject homework or if you think that your child is not doing any homework, please contact the year leader as soon as possible by leaving a message with the office.

## **Reporting and Assessment**

### *Explanation*

#### **Parent Interview schedule 2007/2008**

##### **October 2007**

**Year 5 with form tutors** (The objective of this interview is to make sure that the children have settled well on transfer. It is too early for subject teachers to give detailed reports because they have only known the pupils for six weeks).

**Year 6 and Year 8 with teachers of core subjects.** (In order that parents and teachers can work together to prepare pupils for Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 SATs)

##### **March 2008**

Parent Interviews for all years and for all subjects

##### **July 2008.**

Parent Interviews for all years and for all subjects.

## **Reporting and Assessment schedule**

We apologise to Year 5 parents if they were not fully aware of our reporting timetable.

### **Foundation Subjects (all subjects other than English, maths and science)**

**Assessment forms**, comprising data, teacher comment and pupil comment, are completed at the end of each learning unit (the number varies with each subject). This data is then entered on SIMS, (school information management system), the data collection system used by most Island schools. An interim data summary will be given out in March 2008 and the portfolio of completed assessment forms will be given out in July 2008.

### **Core Subjects (English, maths, science)**

- ❖ **December 2007** Mock exams in core subjects for all year groups
- ❖ **January 2008** Full written reports completed for core subjects for all pupils and data entered on SIMS system.
- ❖ **February 2008** Collating, checking and analysing process.
- ❖ **Early March 2008** Reports are sent to parents (followed by interviews)
- ❖ **July 2008** Results of Year 6 and Year 8 SATs sent to parents  
Data progress sheets sent to Year 5 and Year 7 parents.

We will give exact dates for reports and interviews in the near future. In order to keep to our schedule, we are dependent on the SIMS data system being in full working order. Recently, the whole internet access system for Island schools went down for four days and set our process back because teachers could not get remote access to our system.

The only parents not to be offered formal teacher interviews each term are those with children in Year 7. These parents will have received full information about pupil progress in July of Year 6, following KS2 SAT results. We like to wait until the results of the December exams have been analysed before meeting parents again so that we can give them definitive information about progress. We do realise, however, that it is particularly important to make sure that Year 7 pupils are doing their homework and we urge Year 7 parents to contact us if they are concerned. Likewise

we can and do contact parents of pupils in Year 7 who are causing concern, during the autumn and early spring terms.

## **The Mitre newsletter ACTION**

**If you would like to receive the Mitre by Email, you can:-**

- Send an Email to [Mitre@bishoplovet.com](mailto:Mitre@bishoplovet.com)
- Log onto [www.bishoplovet.com](http://www.bishoplovet.com) (select the Mitre Button) and fill out the message box in the 'Send me the Mitre by Email' section.
- Send a written request to the school office. In all instances please include:-  
Your email address, Your full name, Your child's full name and Class.

### **After-school clubs**

Mr D Givens issues a schedule of after-school clubs each term. Inevitably, these are subject to change for reasons such as the weather, or teacher sickness or teacher absence due to training course. Sometimes, in the case of bad weather, we have to phone parents on the day of the cancellation. There is no way round this. It is worth pointing out that 80% of pupils attend an after-school club at Bishop Lovett. This would not be possible without the extra commitment and hard work of the staff involved.

### **Holiday timetables**

This information is also available from:-

[www.bishoplovet.com](http://www.bishoplovet.com) click main font page, click information, click [here](#) for **current term and holiday dates**

Or [http://eduwight.iow.gov.uk/parent/my\\_child/images/Calendar2007-2008.pdf](http://eduwight.iow.gov.uk/parent/my_child/images/Calendar2007-2008.pdf)

The latest holiday timetable chart is also attached.

However please note that this information is with regard to holidays only and does not include development days.

Our next development day will be on **Thursday 20 March 2008**.