



Changes and feedback from questionnaire

Dear parents and carers,

A huge thank you to those of you who have responded to the parent questionnaire, we received some really insightful feedback that we have used to bring about key changes, that I wish to share with you in this letter.

Calm Starts - School Aged Children

The vast majority of our parents felt that this would help to improve the start to the school day for both the family and the individual child. 72% agreed this would help and a further 21% of you were unsure. 62% of parents also felt standing in a line was not a good use of time. Therefore, from Monday 26th September, the school gates will open at 8:45am until 9:00am, for school aged children. Children will be welcomed, at the door, from 8:45am by their class teacher. Please note new drop off arrangements - I will be on hand to help and direct you all:

Class 1 - Hall door (right as you look at it)

Class 2 - Hall door (right as you look at it)

Class 3 - Tunnel door around the back of the school (head onto the playground past both nurseries)

Class 4 - Tunnel door around the back of the school (head onto the playground past both nurseries)

Class 5 - Tunnel door around the back of the school (head onto the playground past both nurseries)

Class 6 - Class 6 door (before you reach the tunnel on the right)

Class 7 - Class 7 side door

Class 8 - Hall door (left as you look at it)

Class 9 - Hall door (left as you look at it)

Children will be invited into the school, and a teaching assistant will be stationed in the classroom. In the classroom, children will calmly hang their coats, help themselves to a bagel (or you can send a healthy breakfast snack) and they will begin the day with a calming activity. We are hoping this suggestion will mean that the staggered entrance will ease congestion on the roads and will allow children to come in, when they arrive, calmly and that this will help set them up for a positive day. Parents will be able to talk to the class teacher on the door, each morning, should they need to pass on any important messages. 57% of you felt that Elvaston Lane is congested and we hope that this helps to ease the congestion. **Please note, the gates will be open from 7:15am to allow Breakfast Club children to come onto the school grounds. They will close at 8:20am and will NOT open before 8:45am. The pathway is long enough for anyone to queue on this pathway, before this time but we would not encourage you to do this. Teachers will not be expected to admit any child into school before this time. If your child comes after 9:00am, they will be classed as being late and will be missing out on their education and will need to be brought through the school office.** Please note, all nursery session times will remain the same.

Please note, this is a trial approach and we will keep this under constant review.

Behaviour and rewards

89% of parents felt that having clear criteria for the children each week would potentially make it more fair for children when receiving star of the week. There will now be a 'Spot On' assembly each week. The teachers will 'spot' 3 children, each week and there will be clear criteria for how they can be spotted. The criteria for spotting will be a child who:

- has worked on their individual **target** (children can ask what their target is to try to be noticed for this).
- has shown great **improvement** with something.
- **always** does the right thing.

Children who have been 'spotted' will be given a certificate, which will link to the schools attitudes. Whilst we know children can't all be 'spotted', we feel it is important for children to develop resilience when they do not always 'win' or when they aren't always chosen, as this sets them up for survival in life. In addition, as a school, we are aiming to give

specific praise and we will do this both in 'public' and in 'private' depending on the child's wishes. 87% of parents felt that stickers still have a place in education and therefore, at the moment, we will continue to give stickers out for children who are modelling excellent behaviours. In addition, we will aim to give out postcards, which will be sent home and will document exactly why your child has 'wowed' us. We hope that we do not have to sanction children, due to the excellent relationships we foster but should this be needed, we will always seek to 'reprimand' in private, as the first step to alleviate any shame a child may feel. The Relationship Policy will be sent out for you to read, shortly.

Reading and Maths Afternoons

62% of parents felt that changing the reading and maths activities to an afternoon would help children. Whilst 64% of you stated you did not want the activities (mornings as they are) to change to the afternoons. After reading the comments, we have decided to alternate the mornings and the afternoon, each week, so we can cater to a wider range of parents. E.g. those who work in a morning and those who have Friday off and those who may be off all day on a Friday! We hope this increases the number of parents attending these sessions. Friday 30th September will be our first joint activity afternoon and the next week, Friday 7th October, will be an activity morning. These will alternate week by week. Activity mornings will begin from 8:45-9:15am (you will be welcome to share a bagel, too) and the afternoons will be from 2:45pm-3:15pm. We hope to see many of you there.

Diversity Committee

I was so pleased to read how so many of you were interested in the diversity committee and if you would like to be part of this, I would love you to email me at: head@alvastoni.derby.sch.uk so that we can arrange our first meeting. I am so excited to hear about how we can work together to celebrate diversity within our school family. As we all know, it is imperative to educate our children about other cultures, traditions and religions and can't wait to see and hear the ideas and suggestions that you will all bring.

Holiday Club

We have had responses in from the October holiday club and can confirm this will be going ahead. Spaces will be allocated on a first come, first serve basis and will be available to book from 23.09.22 via School Money. As the club may be staffed by staff members who do not know your child as well as their usual class teachers, if your child has any specific needs you feel staff need to know, please contact the office to ensure a form is filled in regarding any health needs your child may have.

School Improvement

A reminder that we have a Parent Forum on 19th October where we would invite as many of you as possible to come in to share ideas and discuss what we are doing to improve the school. So much of our school improvement plan has come from suggestions from you and your children and your ideas are so valuable. The forum will be at 3:30pm. In the meantime, you can check out our child friendly school improvement plan and our school improvement summary plan here, on our website: <https://www.alvastoni.derby.sch.uk/school-improvement>

A reminder there is an online suggestion box, too! Please see the link here: <https://www.alvastoni.derby.sch.uk/online-suggestion-box>

All suggestions will be responded to half termly.

Parent Governor Nominations:

As you may be aware, we have had Parent Governor vacancies and we have 3 parents who have put themselves forward. Please follow the link to read all letters and then cast your vote for who you think will be suitable for the posts. Voting will be open for 10 school days and therefore will close on Friday 7th October at 12:00 noon.

<https://forms.gle/v8YjHkszMpxtN4Uf7>

Thank you

A huge shout out to our wonderful family of parents who kindly have helped us in the reading pod. We are so grateful and hope to open this to children and families VERY soon! Finally, a huge thank you to all of you who took the time to engage in the questionnaire.

We hope that you can see how your valuable feedback has helped to drive changes in school. It is hard to please everyone but we are trying our best to respond to what the vast majority of our families need.

Have a fantastic weekend!

Miss Allen