

South Marston C of E Primary School

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"Encourage one another and build each other up" *1 Thessalonians 5.11*

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the Blue Kite Trust Parent Survey. We truly appreciate your feedback. We've carefully reviewed the results, shared them with the Blue Kite Trust, and are using your input to continue to develop particular areas of our school.

We're delighted to share some of the wonderful comments received:

"I am really pleased with the openness and honesty of the school. My daughter is doing really well and loves performing arts and other similar activities!"

"Lovely learning environment with supportive and welcoming teachers."

"We are very happy with everything the school has offered so far, including PTA events and stay and play."

"The school is really good at participating in inter-school competitions and giving children these opportunities – gymnastics, cross country, voice festival, quad kids."

"Lovely school with really involved and caring staff."

"Great to see the school encourages lots of different sports. I also think it's lovely they have celebration assemblies."

"I feel the learning aspects are very good, and my child enjoys the diversity of subjects."

"I cannot fault this school – it is incredible."

"South Marston School has a very good community vibe. All the teachers and staff are excellent."

"Lovely teachers, great standard of care provided."

"The school secretary is extremely good at keeping us informed."

The Blue Kite Academy Trust

10 Ferndale Primary and Nursery School

Wiltshire Avenue, Swindon, SN2 1NX

The Blue Kite
Academy Trust



Your kind words mean a great deal to us and to the staff who work so hard to make our school the best it can be.

We also appreciate the constructive feedback, for which we aim to address some of below...

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

We appreciate that there have been a small number of questions around SEND support and communication. We're pleased to let you know that from September, Miss Vincent will be taking on the role of our dedicated in-school SENCo. The school leaders have reflected upon the current model, which has been in place for some time and the importance of having a staff member in this role who knows our children and school community well. While the shared SENCo model was always a temporary solution and we are very grateful to Tadpole Farm and Miss Baker for her support and expertise, we are confident that this positive change will lead to more consistent, organised and effective SEND provision moving forward.

Communication

Like many schools, feedback regarding communication can be a mixed response – some parents feel there is too much, others not enough. This is an area that schools consistently find a challenge as what suits one, does not suit all. We're committed to clear, timely and useful communication and feel we have worked hard on this area. Our fortnightly newsletter remains the primary source of important updates and key dates – please keep an eye out for this. We also regularly update our school website and share highlights and celebrations via our school Facebook page.

We understand that many parents use WhatsApp groups to stay connected. However, these are not managed or endorsed by the school, and we are unable to monitor what is shared. If you ever have a question or need clarification, please don't hesitate to contact the school office directly. We feel strongly that is a parent's choice to be part of such groups but direct communication with school is always best. As many of you will be aware, lots of our staff are also parents and are therefore in these groups, when reminders are shared, they are done so with their 'parent hat' on as opposed to a member of school staff. Therefore, a gentle reminder too that topics discussed in WhatsApp groups are often shared with wider staff and as outlined in our Communication Plan any concerns or questions should be directed to the school office. A copy of our Communication Plan which has been shared with parents is on our school website should you wish to view it again.

Clubs and Enrichment

It was wonderful to read so many positive comments about our extracurricular activities, events and trips. These opportunities are only possible thanks to the dedication and generosity of our staff, who run these clubs in their own time. We do our best to ensure a fair rotation so that all year groups have access to a variety of clubs throughout the year.

Transition & New Starters

While we always strive to ensure a smooth and supportive transition, we acknowledge that, particularly during recent changes in office staff and our move to a new trust, there may have been instances where expectations were not fully met. This is an area we

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are actively working to improve. That said, we have had an influx of in year transfers (which is an increase on previous years) with children moving to our school. We have had positive feedback from tours and parents who have joined our school during this academic year. All that said, we are currently developing a new school welcome pack to better support families during the onboarding process. In the meantime, much of the relevant information (including clubs, uniform, staffing list etc) is available on our school website, through the school office, or by speaking directly with a member of staff. As ever, we value parent communication, and our door is always open.

Cultural Diversity

As part of the parent survey, a suggestion was made about increasing the focus on teaching other religions and cultures. While we are a Church of England school and much of our curriculum reflects and respects the Christian faith, we recognise the value of broadening children's understanding of the wider world. This will be an area of focus in our school development plan for the coming year.

Although Christianity is the main religion studied in RE, children are also introduced to and celebrate a wide range of other religions and festivals. We also seek to promote cultural diversity through subjects such as art, music and wider school experiences. We are committed to continuing to build on this important aspect of our curriculum. As an important aside as a Church school within the Diocese of Bristol, we teach 'Understanding Christianity' as part of our learning in RE as well as the local Swindon Syllabus which covers a range of key questions and faiths.

Once again, thank you for your feedback and for your continued support. Working together, we can ensure the very best for our children.

Warm regards,

Mrs M Hendry and Mr M Conlan