**FRITTENDEN**

**CE PRIMARY SCHOOL**



***Frittenden*** ***office@frittenden.kent.sch.uk***

***Cranbrook*** [***www.frittenden.kent.sch.uk***](http://www.frittenden.kent.sch.uk)

***Kent TN17 2DD***

***Telephone 01580 852250***

September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to a new school year at Frittenden CE Primary! I hope you've all had a wonderful summer break and are feeling refreshed and ready for the exciting term ahead. It's always a joy to see our pupils return with such enthusiasm and energy, eager to reconnect with friends and embrace new learning opportunities.

As we embark on this new academic year, I'd like to extend a warm welcome to our new families joining the Frittenden community. We're thrilled to have you with us and look forward to getting to know you better in the coming weeks and months. Additionally, I’m sure you’ll join us in welcoming Mrs. Sturmer, who is taking a role as a learning support assistant in Dahl Class and Mr Chai, who is going to be teaching music in years 1 – 6. Our school is a special place, and I'm confident that you'll soon feel right at home here. Please can we request **family photos** for our Family board in the school hall. You are welcome to send them in via office@frittenden.kent.sch.uk

I'm delighted to report that our pupils have settled in well, adapting to their new classrooms and routines with ease. It's wonderful to see them already engaged in their learning and forming new friendships. This smooth transition is a testament to the resilience and adaptability of our children, as well as the dedication of our staff in creating a welcoming and supportive environment. I am sure that many of you will have seen the school[**Facebook**](https://www.facebook.com/groups/897435784277074/posts/1439540360066611/?comment_id=1439546640065983&notif_id=1725629674245806&notif_t=group_comment) posts showcasing Dahl Class and the Sensory room, which look fantastic!

We would like to remind parents that we cannot allow access to the school building in the morning due to safeguarding. Staff members are on the door to welcome children into school in the morning and will help dysregulated children.

Can we also remind parents and carers that **breakfast club**, which starts are 7.45am (£4.00) and **after school provision**, 3.15 – 4.45pm at a cost of £5.00, is available every day. These can be booked in advanced or used on an ad hoc basis.

As we start the new term, we have taken time to revisit the school mission statement ‘**Shepherding our school community to enrich God’s world and flourish**,’ and our values ‘**Joy, Respect and Compassion**,’ as well as expectations for learning and behaviour. We want our children to embrace the role of shepherd: guiding, nurturing and taking care of each other and the world we live in.

Reflecting on the previous term, I want to express my gratitude for your participation in our **parent survey**. Your feedback is invaluable in helping us continually improve and provide the best possible education for our pupils.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| My child is happy at school | 68% strongly agreed28% agreed 4% don’t know |
| My child feels safe at school  | 88% strongly agreed12% agreed |
| The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved. | 56% strongly agreed40% agreed 4% don’t know |
| My child has been bullied and the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively | 80% have not been bullied4% strongly agreed8% agreed8% don’t know |
| The school makes me aware of what my child will be learning during the year | 32% strongly agree56% agree 8% disagree4% don’t know |
| When I have raised concerns with the school they have been dealt with properly | 36% have not raised concerns36% strongly agree28% agree  |
| My child has SEND and the school gives them the support they need to succeed | 19% strongly agree 44% agree38% don’t know (no experience of SEN) |
| The school has high expectations for my child | 40% strongly agree 48% agree 8% don’t know |
| My child does well at this school | 60% strongly agree 36% agree 4% don’t know |
| The school has let me know how my child is doing  | 44% strongly agree48% agree |
| There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school | 40% strongly agree60% agree  |
| My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school | 52% strongly agree40% agree8% don’t know |
| The school supports my child’s wider personal development | 48% strongly agree40% agree8% don’t know |
| I would recommend this school to another parent | 100% yes  |
| Comments: * For a small school you do an amazing job
* Compared to my child’s last school the level of year 6 children is higher and more advanced: I wish they had started the school in reception
* The care and actual love the teachers and staff show to the children is beyond and expectations I’d have of a school, especially given the backdrop of hours worked, pay and general admin… I’m so grateful
* We are grateful for the consistent provision this year… active use of studybugs has bee great for comms…. Glad to see the school lean on parent contributions, i.e. painting / driving
* My children are excelling at school due to the fantastic support and efforts of the teaching staff… they are encouraged to be themselves, love going to school and I feel lucky to have found a school as good as Frittenden
* Thank you so much for everyone’s hard work with the children and for all the extra activities you do such as the theatre company that come in and the talent show, think these make the school so much more enjoyable for the children
* I think the school is incredibly strong in a pastoral sense. This is at every stage, from the office through to the headteacher… It is very obvious just how much staff truly care about children. Often my daughters will tell me about staff at school such as Miss Langley and Miss M, who clearly have taken the time to develop a strong relationship with my daughters
* My child is just finishing Potter class and I’ve been extremely impressed with the Potter class teachers, how well they’ve helped my child settle into school life and how nurturing they are. The entire school is very open and friendly and feels like a big community.
* Creative homework tasks have been good- rather than just maths and English. Communication has improved and staff presence on the door in the morning is lovely. Thank you for all you do. It’s a lovely caring and nurturing school.
* Our child loves coming to school- thank you very much and has had a brilliant year
 |

I'd like to take a moment to address some changes in **attendance** expectations. It is well known that poor attendance has a huge impact on a child’s life chances. Because of an increase in persisten absence the DfE has issued new guidance which came into force in August.

* Regarding **penalty notices** which are issued by Kent County Council: A penalty notice is issued if 10 sessions are missed: this can be 5 days in a row or can a be a series of unauthorised days over a 10 week period (including unauthorised lateness after the register closes)
* **First fine £80**, or £160 if not paid within 21 days. **Second fine £160** no reduced rate.

Two fines can be issued to the same parent for the same child within a three-year rolling period.

* There is no third fine. The next step would be prosecution with a **fine of up to £2500** and a conviction which would show as ‘failure to safeguard a child’s education.’

To be clear, the threshold can be met with “**any combination of unauthorised absence**”. For example, four sessions in term time plus six instances of arriving late. Additionally, the period of 10 weeks can also span “different terms or school years”.

We kindly ask that parents and carers report a child’s absence, through **Studybugs**, each day that their child is absent. If your child has a medical appointment, the school request to see a copy of the letter / appointment card. Please download the Studybugs app if you have not already done so.

Where attendance continues to be poor (below 90%) the school will request parental meetings and if there is no improvement we will involve the Attendance and Inclusion Officer. I am sure that we can work together to ensure the best outcomes for all children.

**Ms. Dayson**, our Family Liaison Officer, is always available to assist parents with regard to attendance and other matters.

Looking ahead, we have a busy and exciting term planned. I'd like to draw your attention to some **key dates for your diaries**:

**September** promises to be an eventful month. On the 13th, we'll be holding our **House assemblies**, led by our Year 6 pupils. This is always a wonderful opportunity for our older pupils to demonstrate leadership and for our school community to come together. On the 16th, Wells will be visiting **Larchmere**, which I'm sure will be an enriching experience for all involved.

On the 20th, we'll be participating in **Jeans for Genes** day, a fantastic initiative that raises awareness and funds for children with genetic disorders: donation and denim please. Later that same day, at 2:30 pm, we'll be celebrating our **Harvest Festival at St. Mary's Church**. This is always a special event in our school calendar, and we look forward to seeing many of you there. On the 27th we will be hosting our first **Celebration Service** at 9am.

Please note that on the morning of the 24th, Mr. Hancock and Mr. Price will be out of school.

As we move into **October**, there are a few more dates to be aware of. On the 4th, we're excited to invite you to our **Open Classroom** event from 8:30 to 9:00 am. This is a fantastic opportunity for you to see your child's learning environment and the wonderful work they've been doing.

Our next **Celebration Service** will take place on the 11th at 9am, where we'll come together to recognise and applaud the achievements of our pupils. **Parent Consultations** are scheduled for the 22nd and 23rd of October, providing an opportunity for you to discuss your child's progress with their teachers.

Finally, please remember that the school will be closed to pupils on the 24th and 25th of October for staff **INSET days**.

As we navigate this new term together, I want to express my gratitude for your continued support and partnership. The strong bond between home and school is what makes Frittenden CE Primary such a special place. Your involvement in your child's education, whether through attending school events, supporting learning at home, or simply showing interest in their school day, makes an enormous difference.

I'm looking forward to the term ahead and all the wonderful experiences and achievements it will bring. Let's work together to make this year at Frittenden CE Primary the best one yet, filled with growth, learning, and joy.

Here's to a fantastic autumn term!

Ms. Costello and Team Fritt.