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Friday, 3rd February

Dear Parent/Carers,

RE: Years 1- 6 Open Afternoons

Our open afternoon events for years 1 – 6 were a huge success and the parent feedback we received was overwhelmingly positive.

Many of you described the open events as 'precious' or 'special' and we know, from the feedback that you kindly gave us, that you were all delighted to have the opportunity to visit the school; you relished seeing your child's learning and enjoyed encouraging them to explain their growing knowledge. Additionally, you shared how much you liked being able to explore the school buildings and seeing your child's classroom.

It was gratifying to read your comments in relation to the way in which your children respond to their teacher's written feedback. We are pleased that you all recognise how useful children find this and are proud that you found it as productive as we do. Here are a few of the comments made, which show us how much you appreciate the effort made, by both the teachers and your children.

'The feedback is great – thanks! Thorough, helpful and positive.' *(Yr6 Parent)*

'Detailed and formative, good habits of student reflection and response to feedback.' *(Yr3 Parent)*

'The feedback is regular and consistent. All work is marked. ***** understood the marking and was able to talk about it.' *(Yr2 Parent)*

Over the last two years, we have worked hard to improve the quality of our curriculum and the way in which this learning is presented in children's books. It was evident from your comments that you know we have a real focus upon handwriting across our school; it is pleasing to see that you also recognise the huge strides that have been made in this area. Here are a few of the comments made:

'Very impressive and detailed. The maths was particularly challenging.' *(Yr6 Parent)*

'They're fantastic! It's hard to believe how much they fit in! Very diverse too!' *(Yr4 Parent)*

'Very neat and well organised! Also impressed with the level of work – lots of rather complicated ideas and themes.' *(Yr5 Parent)*

'Beautiful presentation!' (Yr1 Parent)

We recognise that the open events have led to some of you having further questions in relation to your child's learning.

Below, are some of the questions raised, along with our responses:

Q. Why isn't all of my child's spelling corrected?

We aim to keep marking positive so children don't feel demoralised. Therefore, we do not correct all spelling mistakes but will focus specifically upon those that are appropriate to age expectations.

We ensure that we employ a range of strategies to tackle spelling errors and will seek as many opportunities as possible to support children to practice. You can also help by ensuring that your child accesses their Spelling Frame platform and engages with learning their spellings at home.

Q) Why does marking vary across subjects?

In general, marking is consistent across all subjects and focuses upon the knowledge children demonstrate within the lesson. Occasionally, there may be more in English books as there can be a wider range of skills to address, such as grammar and punctuation, alongside specific requirements of the genre being written.

Q. Why are QR codes and pictures used?

As a school we have invested in a range of APPs that are designed to provide the children with a variety of means to showcase their learning. There are many occasions, for example, reciting poetry and drama activities, where children achieve a learning objective without having written evidence in their books. The APPs provide a way for children to evidence this. Often, children independently chose which APP to use and class teachers can scan the QR codes created by the children to view their outcomes which support their assessment of your child's understanding. Occasionally, teachers will provide a QR code within their feedback; children can scan these and quickly access a further challenge.

If you have a further question about your child's work or their progress, we encourage you to speak to your child's class teacher.

Finally, may I take the opportunity to thank you all for attending the open event. The children were ever so excited at the prospect of sharing their work with you; we look forward to welcoming you to our next events.

Ayse Thomas



Deputy Headteacher