

Newsletter - Autumn Term Week 8

Primary Site:
Cuddesdon Way
Oxford OX4 6SB
Tel: 01865 777878

www.mabelprichard.org



PART OF
The GALLERY TRUST

Secondary Site:
Sandy Lane West
Oxford OX4 6JZ

Message from the Headteacher



Dear Parents and Carers

We are now at the end of a challenging half term, which started with an outbreak of Covid in the school. We have continued to manage considerable staff absence due to a range of illnesses and we really appreciate your support and patience over this period, as it has been difficult to plan any events. We have also had to continue to limit face to face meetings with you in school. Much as we are trying to return to a full curriculum and get out into the community, this is also limited due to staff absence and the restricted numbers allowed into many of the venues we would otherwise have been going to. When we are able to expand curriculum opportunities and plan school events, we will share them with you.

Despite the difficulties, we did manage to take a group of secondary students to Parability at the Leisure Centre this week, where they took part in a range of sporting events organised by the Local Authority and Oxford Academy students. Thank you so much to those of you who responded to our parent/carer survey. I have shared a summary of responses and have also responded to your suggestions with the actions we are taking, or answers to your questions. Please do always continue to give us feedback as we cannot improve without your views.

We have had two wonderful harvest assemblies on both sites today. Students have shared art work, dancing and singing. We have also got some wonderful costumes and students in harvest colours. Thank you for all your contributions to our foodbank appeal, which a group of our 14-19 students will deliver later.

Finally, we have said goodbye to Roji and Sandra today. Roji has been with us 8 years and although she is only moving next door to The Oxford Academy, we will miss her. Sandra is moving on to a headship in another school out of county and we would like to wish her all the very best. Thank you so much to both of them for all they have done for the families and students in our school.

Have a wonderful half term everyone and we will see you on Monday November 1st at the usual time.

Best wishes

Lucy



Orange Class

The new starters in Orange Class have settled in brilliantly and the children we are welcoming back are enjoying the familiar routines. We have explored more spaces around the school this term. A few children have made it to the Jacuzzi and the whole class has taken it in turns to spend time in Soft Play and the Sensory Room. It has been fun watching the children decide what they like to do in the new environments. We have been exploring different habitats through the story Walking through the Jungle. We have been watching the story and discovering new props. Pictures and symbols around the story.



Platinum Class

This week in Platinum class we have added something new to our morning routine. After we have all arrived at school and had breakfast, we have a chance to choose a book to look at and read before our daily exercise. The learners have really enjoyed talking about their books with their friends and showing each other their favourite recipes from a cookbook. Some of our students also had a lovely visit to Thomley on Tuesday, the sun was shining which was a real treat! On Wednesday we made a delicious apple crumble to have with our lunch and we were able to put into practice the cutting skills we have been learnt in one of our pathway groups.



Message from Paul Litherland - Parent Governor

To those of you who don't know me, Jacob is our son and has been at Mabel P for almost 4 years since he was two years old, Cat is his Mum. We all want Mabel P to thrive in teaching and supporting pupils and parents/carers, and so I am very keen to be involved in ensuring all pupils can be given the best opportunities as they progress through the school. Having worked in children's publishing for 35 years I know the importance of children learning to read and write. I have also worked in the Education sector, so I understand the importance of developing life skills. I am looking forward to liaising and working with staff and parents so that all pupils develop their full potential.





Primary site: Cuddesdon Way, Oxford, OX4 6SB – Secondary site: Sandy Lane West, Oxford, OX4 6JZ
Head Teacher: Mrs. Lucy Wawrzyniak MTcG PGCE BA (Hons)

22.10.21

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you very much for your response to our questionnaire last week. We had 24 responses and found them extremely helpful. I thought it would be useful to share the responses with you, to answer the questions and to let you know what action we are taking. I have responded underneath your suggestions, in blue.

1. The school have a clear understanding of my son or daughter's needs

- 100% agree
- Can we have a BM and fluid chart for each child?
 - *We are really happy to do this. If you would like one, please contact your class teacher.*
- Primary and secondary handover could improve.
 - *We will certainly look into this.*

2. The school regularly keeps me informed of my son or daughter's progress

- 78.3% agree
- 4.3% disagree
- Dojo means we get less information about progress
 - *Dojo is for daily communication rather than progress. The progress reports come out 3 times a year and the first will be out after half term. We will also hold parents'/carers' evenings to discuss progress and the annual review is also an opportunity to discuss progress.*
- Communication seems less now we have no diary
 - *We have realised Dojo is not functioning as well as it could have been as we have the account assigned to the teacher. If the teacher is off, no one can access the private messaging. We have now switched to class accounts, so TAs can check. If this is still not functioning for you, please contact your class teacher and they can come up with a solution that works for you.*

3. *My son/daughter is generally happy at school*

- 100% agree
- Loads of positives!!

4. *The staff are generally helpful*

- 96% agree
- Issues with forms not being taken out of bags and 3 copies going home
 - *We have reminded staff to check bags. Please contact the class teacher if this happens and we can work to make sure it does not.*

5. *The communication between home and school is good*

- 79% agreed
- 8.3% disagreed
- *We had really varied answers with some strong praise for Dojo and some parents and carers really unhappy with it. We hope the class account solution and the clear option of additional paper charts that work for your son or daughter's specific needs will address this. If not, please contact your class teacher and we look at solutions.*

6. *I am pleased with my son/daughter's progress*

- 87% agree
- Would like to speak to the therapy team.
 - *Therapists can be contacted individually. If you need their contact details, please contact reception.*

7. *I am happy with the physical environment of the school.*

- 91.3% agree
- 4.35% disagree
- Concerns about traffic issues
 - *We share these concerns and are looking at solutions*

8. *The learning opportunities my son/daughter has at school allow them to grow and develop as they need to.*

- 96% agree

9. *I feel Mabel Prichard School work in good partnership with us/me.*

- 96% agree

10. *I am happy with the frequency and quality of school newsletters.*

- 91.3% agree
- The newsletters tend to focus on one or two classes which never seem to be my son's class so I skim them to pick up relevant info so they are fine.
 - *There is a rota of one primary and one secondary a week, so your son or daughter's class should come up every 5 to 6 weeks. If they do not, please contact us.*
- Would like it to be an enewsletter as if child off we miss getting the news
 - *The newsletter is sent out on Parentmail every week. If you have not signed up, please contact your class teacher.*

11. *Would you change anything about the school and if so, what would it be?*

- Extend school hours to 3.30pm
 - *Unfortunately we are not funded to do this. We offer 30 hours learning a week, which is over the requirement of 25. However, we are speaking to various organisations about an after school club and if we are unable to arrange an organisation to do this, we have plans to run our own. These would require parents and carers to buy places.*
- Opportunity to see a portal that shares my son's progress over weeks.
 - *We are in the process of trying to share **Evidence for Learning**, which we use to assess progress. However, there are currently too many safeguarding issues to solve around this but we will keep you informed of our progress.*
- Send timetables home.
 - *This should have happened. If you have not received one, please contact your class teacher.*
- Let parents know who to ring when child is ill.
 - *The school absence line is 01865 777878 and press 3.*
- Send calendar of school events/holidays and insets so parents know when to book time off work.
 - *The calendar is on the website with insets identified. Any school events (when we are back to a time when we can plan them) are also shared on the calendar. The newsletter also reminds parents and carers of upcoming events.*
- Send leaflets of support organisations, groups etc home.
 - *These are attached to the newsletter if they fit and the 'shortbreaks newsletter' is always posted on our website.*

- One to one parents evening would be nice to meet staff
 - We absolutely agree and as soon as Covid allows, we will return to holding these.
- Residential
 - We have been making plans for residential, which have so far been delayed by Covid. We believe they are really important and will update you when we can.

12. What do you believe to be the main strengths of the school?

- Staff really care about the children. The Senior leadership team is excellent. School environment is really suited for the needs of children with special education needs.
- Dedicated and caring staff who work under extreme pressure.
- Meeting individual needs. The support for each child and parents. Working at the child's pace.
- Being inclusive
- Communication, understanding.
- Support
- Helping children feel included
- Lovely people. Lovely setting. Doing lots of nice things. Supportive.
- Special needs they are all trained to care, teach and provide
- Individualised approach yet a strong team ethos

- A place of happiness
- Attention to the details of all who learn and work there
- Supporting our son's abilities and encouraging things he is not so confident in with the help of outside professionals so he doesn't miss school with hospital appointments.
- The partnership between school and parents is great
- Communication with parents.
- The wonderful staff who take a holistic approach to my son's education and well-being.
- Everyone has got the best interests of the children at heart , and I appreciate everything they do
- A friendly environment.

Please do always share any questions or concerns with us. There is usually a simple solution but if not, we can at least share what we are trying to do and keep you informed.

Many thanks once again for your responses. They have been a real help.

Best wishes



Lucy Wawrzyniak
Executive Headteacher