



Your questions answered

These questions were collected from parents at informal parent consultations in the school year and have been answered by the senior leadership team. Thank you so much for your openness and pro-active involvement in the school to help us keep improving.

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Food

How is it monitored that children eat lunch?

My child doesn't eat pork or beef but he isn't vegetarian. How does this work?

How do I find out everything I need to know as a parent?

The school website is still the best place to look.

We send out the curriculum sheets at the beginning of each term, which have the key dates on.

The school office will send letters home about key events by your preferred method – email or book bag.

For urgent information (e.g. school closure due to snow) we also send out text messages. Please make sure the office has your up to date details.

I'm not on email – can I still get the information?

Please let the office know, and they will continue to put hard copy letters in your child's book-bag.

Could you let us know about events earlier?

We know that it helps to have as much notice as possible for any school trips or extra events, and we keep working on this so we're always improving.

There will always be some last minute things, especially when arranged outside the school. We're trying to get all dates on the website as early as possible. We're also trying to make sure that all events are included in the curriculum sheets including assemblies, fabulous finishes, and parent consultation evenings.

We'll also act on your feedback about letting you know earlier if you're definitely needed, when you've signed up to help on a school trip.

Is there any way to consider working parents in fabulous finishes?

We fully understand how difficult it is for working parents to attend daytime events, but unfortunately we can't put on any more evening events in the year, to keep workload manageable for staff. We hope that there are already a good number of other occasions to be involved.

Could the school use Parentpay?

The office is currently investigating this. Parentpay doesn't match up with the lunch pay system, but when we review the catering contract, we will also review the paying system at the same time.

Could we give trip permissions by email?

We are considering email permissions.

Could we sign up for parent consultations by email?

You raised an issue about parents who don't do pick-up, being able to sign up to parent consultations. For the latest consultations we sent an email to let you know when the sign up sheets would be available, and the sheets were put in primetime so that parents could sign up there too. We hope this worked better.

The reception class toilets smell really strong! Can anything be done?

They are cleaned at lunchtime as well as after school. We're doing what we can!

Is the school secure enough? Should there be security cameras? What about the back gate being open during Friday assembly?

We regularly review safety, and have put in a bid to the department of education to improve the access routes so that the gate can be monitored from the school office.

During assembly, all the children are in the hall and under teachers' supervision so we don't feel there is any risk to children with the back gate being open at this time.

Are there separate changing facilities for boys and girls for older years?

Yes, in older years. As in other schools, the two classes in a year group do PE at the same time, so that two classrooms are available for changing – separate rooms for girls and boys.

How will the school cope with any potential behaviour issues with year 5 and 6 and how it will affect the rest of the school?

We're keeping the current behaviour policy and have had no issues with year 5. Behaviour in the school is extremely good, and is often praised when we have external experts coming into the school to advise on how we can keep improving.

I feel like I don't know enough about what will happen with year 5 and year 6?

As in previous years, transition arrangements will be given out in the summer term when staffing for the next year is confirmed. Hopefully now that the school has negotiated a successful transition to year 5, parents can be confident that it is 'business as usual'. If you ever have any questions or concerns please feel free to raise them with your class teacher or the office.

What about the physical space? Will there be a separate playground for Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 as the number of children increases? How will it work with assemblies?

We do have plans to create an additional playground in future, but no funding for it yet. However, it is working fine at the moment, as the children are using the playground at different times.

We'll be making changes to assembly, which we've written to parents about recently. It's important to maintain the family ethos through whole school assemblies, and so from next term we will trial a new format where we will celebrate school awards only.

What does it mean when the children 'celebrate' festivals from a religion that is not their own?

We have a wonderfully diverse community at The Hills and love to celebrate all the major religious festivals including Christmas, Diwali and Eid. When your child participates, they are celebrating the shared values at the heart of the school community. (e.g. for Diwali, the children celebrate light / 'good' over darkness and a hopeful world view) as well as experiencing the colourful cultural expressions of the

various festivals through decorations and lights, songs, gifts, and story telling. The children are not praying to a different God, or taking part in a religious offering or ceremony.

I saw a lot of basic errors in my child's extended writing book that had not been picked up – should they have been?

As a policy, we don't correct everything in a child's book, as we want to encourage children to write confidently and develop their expression and fluent writing style, as well as their spelling, punctuation and grammar. There are key success criteria for each piece of work, for example, using capital letters correctly, which enable the children to focus on a particular area of development.

Could I have the learning objectives for maths and literacy in advance each term to support my child with their learning?

The curriculum sheets explain the themes and focus for children's learning, and the weekly work set on **my maths** and **grammar bug** show what the children are learning specifically each week.

For comprehensive information, the national curriculum can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/education/primary-curriculum-key-stage-1>

<https://www.gov.uk/education/primary-curriculum-key-stage-2>

Is there any point to the reading record book with the stickers rather than individual comments about the child's progress?

We have come to the same conclusion, and decided to stop using the reading record books. We're promoting regular reading with parents, as discussed in the literacy evening.

Could homework be put on the website?

Yes - homework sheets are on website.

What is the policy on swimming for strong swimmers? Why is my child still wearing a tummy band?

The swimming coaches are qualified to determine the approach for the children's swimming, and all the children are assessed on their water position and stroke development. If you ever have any questions or concerns we are happy to pass them on to the coaches.

How is it monitored that children eat lunch?

Lunchtime supervisors report back to the teacher if there are any issues, so that these can be raised with the parent.

My child doesn't eat pork or beef but he isn't vegetarian. How does this work?

The wristband will show the specific details of your child's dietary requirements, so that should not be limited only to vegetarian options. If you ever have any concerns about dietary requirements please raise them with the office.