



The Two Way Street

Many thanks to all the Early Years parents (both old and new) who attended the Open Evening. From this evening, we received 55 completed questionnaires and after analysing them, we would like to share the results and answer some questions/issues that have arisen. Many were completed anonymously, but a few ticked the box that they would like further discussions, however, without the names, this is difficult to do. Let us know if it was you!

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	No box ticked
My child is happy at St Johns	44	9	1		1	
My child feels safe at St Johns	43	9	1		1	1
My child is making good progress at St Johns	44	9	1		1	
My child is well looked after at St Johns	46	9				
My child is taught well at St Johns	44	10				
St Johns makes sure that pupils are well behaved	40	15				
St Johns deals effectively with bullying	21	9	1		21	3
St Johns is well led and managed	35	14	1		4	1
St Johns responds well to any concerns I raise	33	13	1		6	2
I receive valuable information from St Johns about my child's progress	40	12	2		1	
I think the emails I receive from school are useful	40	13	1			1
Do you ever access the school's website?	Yes - 47			No - 8		
Do you use St John's Twitter feed?	Yes - 5			No - 50		



The data –

It is clear that some of our new parents do not know how the school deals with bullying but as they have also ticked the box that states their child feels safe in school and are happy, we are assuming it is because there have not been any incidents to report. This is good news! This scenario also applies to any raised concerns; parents have not had an issue so are unaware of how we deal with these.

One parent felt that an issue was not dealt with appropriately the first time with a specific child (older child). We do not always get it right first time, but we certainly aim to and try to be as proactive and as effective as we can be.

One parent felt that their child needed more reassurance to feel safe in school, and the child was still not happy to come to Nursery – we will get there soon, we are sure!



All Positive Comments; -

Both of my **children** love this school and are very happy

Parentmail and Dojo are very good for information. Great teaching staff, thank you!

I honestly think they are the best school I have dealt with so far. Very happy with all communication to date.

Mrs Shenton has helped my child settle so well. She really enjoys school.

I love class Dojo and Parentmail.

Parentmail and class Dojo are fab!

We are happy with our children's school life and can't think of anyway the school could improve!

Suggestions as to how we could improve and our responses; -

- ❖ *“Use Dojo to highlight children’s achievements throughout the day/More Dojo updates and messages/The issue is some staff are using it and others, no use of it at all/ This term in Reception, we have had very little communication compared to Nursery.”*

As you can imagine, putting messages and photos onto Dojo is quite time consuming when we are trying to teach too! We are aware that the Early Years use it more than the higher Key Stages. This is done as we are aware that the younger children are less likely to answer questions that parents ask regarding their school day, however, more onus is put onto the older ones as they are more able to answer questions. However, with this aside, if you did send a Dojo message to any staff member with a concern, rest assured that your question would be answered at the first available opportunity.

❖ *Communicate by text.*

We can use Parentmail to text parents, however, sending texts does have a significant cost implication to the school if used daily. We use this method of communication in urgent cases such as school closures, children missing from school etc. Emails and Dojo are far more cost effective – we are sure that you would rather we spent the money on the children.

❖ *I'm not sure if you can message/email teachers directly?*

This is why we introduced class Dojo so that you have a direct line of communication with staff members.

❖ *More pegs in the cloakroom.*

We are very aware of our limited cloakroom space throughout school. In Nursery, the morning and afternoon children share a peg, as only one child's coat will need to be on there at one time, however, the pump bags remain on there. In both Reception and Nursery, simple pump bags are the best option, as large backpacks take up a great deal of space, and are not necessary for what it needs to hold. Please be mindful if you are sending in a large bag.



The good news is, as a result of your feedback, the Reception classes are now having extra pegs installed (with a bit of furniture jiggling) so that the tight corner does not have to be used and there will be more space for children and coats, so less congestion.

❖ *Have own car park or drop off zone during bad weather, surrounding areas get very icy.*



We hope that during times of inclement weather, parents who live locally will walk to school to avoid accidents. During very icy/snowy days, we generally run a 'drop off' service along Brook Lane, where staff are outside on the pavement to collect your children from the car and they are escorted in to save you from having to park. Unfortunately, we do not have the space to create a drop off zone and we do not have any land to create a new car park.

❖ *After school clubs for Reception.*

Historically, we have run clubs for Reception children in the later terms. Unfortunately, the music room and our hall are already timetabled every evening for other clubs, so finding a space is not always easy! We also have to consider staffing, as many of the Early Years staff are busy sorting resources for the next day's activities once the children have gone home. We have investigated using external providers, but this generally comes at a cost. It is something we can look into a little more during the year.

- ❖ *1 form of communication, or WhatsApp group for year groups.*

We feel that Dojo does this job really well and generally, the parental feedback reflects this.

- ❖ *The children need to be pushed to achieve greater potential.*

We do feel that this is done well at St John's without unduly affecting the mental health of the children - we want them to achieve, but do not want them to feel that they are being overloaded and out of their depth. Our target tracking is very robust.



- ❖ *Getting 3 of the same emails is pointless.*

Our system's default is set to send only 1 copy per family. However, in the case of after school clubs, we do send multiple copies out when there are consent slips to print out and monies to be paid. If you find that this is not the case for you, please pop into school and we will be happy to investigate why it does not work on your account.

- ❖ *The slips with rough levels for our children – why not add a little personal side note for the child too.*

The idea of having a parent's evening is to discuss the positives and negatives so it is more of a two way discussion. The targets are printed out merely as a reminder for parents should they wish to work on these at home.

Thank you all once again for your feedback!!

If you have any comments, concerns or questions, please email us using the address below, and put 'Two Way Street' in the subject line.

Email address:
office@st-johns.walsall.sch.uk
Thank you.

