



## Elton Primary School & Nursery

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**Headteacher: Ms V. Carr**

**BA Hons QTS, MA, NPQH, MA,  
PGC SEN**

Dear Parents,

As you know, we met with Mrs Carr on Thursday 13th October as the Parent Panel.

The topics we discussed in this Parent Panel were: Online Payments and the Behaviour for Learning Policy.

### **Online Payment:**

We all said that we had our registrations for online payments and that there were no issues with these at all.

1 had not registered yet, as Mrs Carr reminded us, until the end of October half term, it is optional. After that, the office will be cashless.

1 had registered but not used the system yet.

7 of us agreed that the online payment system was a brilliant idea and asked if it could be developed to include: paying donations to own clothes days, charity donations, nursery fees, trip payments etc. Mrs Carr said that the office had focussed on setting the system up and ensuring that everyone had the registrations details and the ability to pay for school lunches as a trial and the rest would be on its way during the course of the term.

We discussed trips and we agree that all parents should prioritise and pay for their child to attend school trips. We know that the Government cutting funding means that school cannot subsidise this and we all felt that children get so much out of school trips that to not pay and expect other parents to pay for your child was unacceptable.

We all agreed that the new texting service to remind us of the need to pay was helpful as, when you're busy, it can slip your mind! This will improve swell when you can pay online.

As an aside we discussed how brilliant the school were at engaging the community and supporting many people in the community and were actually surprised to hear about how many ways that school does this as well as the main job it has.

Mrs Carr mentioned the disappointing Harvest Festival donation this year which meant that the elderly people that received a hamper last year will not receive one this year. This is a shame.



We also discussed the stay and play sessions as part of that engagement with the community conversation and we all agreed that these were brilliant.

### **Behaviour for Learning Policy:**

We all mentioned the 2 highly obvious issues with specific children coming into school and were reassured that those children had additional needs that were being addressed with support. It is hard for Mrs Carr and the staff to share what that support is on a wider scale due to confidentiality and we all agreed that this was difficult but were glad to know that despite how it may look outside, there is an awful lot going on behind the scenes.

The main discussion was the appearance that school had 'toughened up' on its stance to bad behaviour. Mrs Carr reminded us that the behaviour for learning policy was the same one that had been there for 3 1/2 years - designed by children, parents and governors and updated each year with feedback from children. Mrs Barnes is currently updating the policy and the most up-to-date one will be on the agenda for Governors in November and on the website shortly afterwards. The change is that since September there has been shift in the behaviour of children in the village that has had an effect on the behaviour within school. We have read on the blog about the police coming into school on several occasions to ask about support from school about educating children with regard to antisocial behaviour and the age at which children are considered criminally culpable in the eyes of the law, and the school have supported that. The police have also mentioned the increase in vandalism and petty crime, shoplifting and violence between children in the village over the summer and unfortunately this has spilled into school. School are using their robust Behaviour policy and dealing with the behaviour in the strictest possible way to make sure that it is quickly sorted out and the main job of the teachers - teaching our children - becomes the absolute focus, not trying to control children who are not behaving appropriately. Many of us see that Mrs Carr has made several exclusions this half term already for children who have been violent and aggressive and we all agreed that this was absolutely what we would expect as parents.

We were completely unanimous in our support of Mrs Carr as she and the staff sort out the one or two behaviour issues in school, some of us thought she should be even more strict but she reminded us that the Behaviour for Learning Policy outlines what the school do and it is a useful document. We also think that parents SHOULD NOT swear on the playground - we have all heard it and it is not acceptable. Parents should be setting and example as well as school staff.

We are all pleased to have had the time to spare to go into school on a regular basis and give feedback. We will be happy to take your ideas to the next Parent Panel in November when it is about Safeguarding and RE/P4C.

Thank you,

Parent Panel

