

NORTHCOTE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Cavendish Drive
Liverpool
L9 1HW

Tel: 0151 284 1919 or 233 4610
Headteacher: Mr G Anders
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www.northcoteschool.com

Dear Parents and Guardians

Firstly, I would like to thank everyone for being so welcoming in my first two weeks of school. The school community seems so unified in doing the very best for the children at Northcote. I am obviously still finding my feet and listening to all stakeholders involved in the school. It was great to hold the parent meetings and get your opinions of school and how you think we could improve.

I would like to share some of the findings and what has been done so far. Clearly some of the suggestions will take a little while to change but, when possible, I will identify thoughts for the future and show that we listen and want to improve.

Pleasingly, lots of parents identified they would like to take a more active role in their child's education. They felt that they would like more opportunities to come into school and celebration events together as a community. They also identified they would like more support on how to help their child at home as well as a review of homework systems.

Some parents felt they were not able to communicate with school as well as they would like. This linked to direct contact with teacher each day and how they might make contact after the school gates have closed. Some of you also felt that often key events such as parents evening were not communicated in the frequency you required or too late to make adequate preparations to attend.

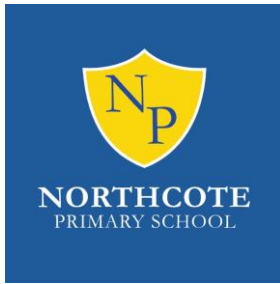
The final key area highlighted for improvement linked to the wider offer school can provide. This linked to an interest being expressed in an afterschool club to support working families. You also identified that you would like school to offer a wider range of afterschool clubs and activities.

As a school we want to be as responsive as possible when we are not getting things right. I will identify somethings that we have already done to show we appreciate what you are saying.

Encouraging parent involvement is something I care deeply about, and we have already planned come and see sessions across school. So that as families you can see where your child is each day and what it feels like to be in Northcote. I would like to express thanks to teachers for organising and allowing you into their classrooms. I am sure you can appreciate this is difficult thing to do and involves a lot of reciprocal trust. We have nothing to hide and therefore know that opportunities such as this will only strengthen relationships. We plan to invite you into school for special events, class assemblies and celebration events such as Christmas shows, Sports days etc.

These types of events do need your support and I was delighted that so many parents were keen to initiate a parent's association. This is something we can further consider as the year progresses. Having effective systems of communication is vital to ensure and maintain positive relationships. Tomorrow you will receive information around a new digital platform called Class Dojo. This platform when fully utilised will mean that you can have direct contact with school and your teacher. This platform can also be translated into a variety of languages.





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Looking at the wider offer provided by school the breakfast club continues and if this is something you wish to access, please contact the office. We are currently evaluating how an afterschool club might be started by liaising with external providers and assessing if this is financially viable for school to run their own provision. In terms of clubs and wider curriculum offer, we have already added to the schools existing clubs a dance and gymnastics club which will be accessed by different key stages throughout the year. We also will be looking at expanding this offer and require further parental feedback.

Once the digital platform (Dojo) has been set up and parents have signed up we will send out a questionnaire to further source your opinions.

Finally, I would like to briefly discuss pupil attendance and avoid any misconceptions of what is expected. Naturally, I know you are aware that pupil's attendance is closely linked to pupil achievement and that the expected attendance is 97%. This is a national government expectation and is something we are measured against as the statistical information clearly identifies underperformance is high in pupils below this standard. I am not sure if you are aware of the recent change in legislation around action around holidays in term times, but sanctions for families are becoming more serious. This is something supported by Liverpool Council and is something I have no choice but to follow. I wish to inform you that school **does not** receive any direct funding from fines applied to parents and as Headteacher, as part of policy I must follow these rules. Northcote does not financially benefit from the implementation of these fines.

I am conscious that I do not want to damage relationships with families, and I completely understand the benefits of time together as a family and the financial implications holidays taken outside of term time. I feel this is something that the government really need to push with holiday companies if they are to impose the rules set.

I am excited to continue to get to know you all and help improve opportunities for the pupils who attend Northcote. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or recommendations.

Yours Sincerely Gary Anders

Northcote School

Headteacher

