



March 2016

To Mum's Dads and Carers,

**SURVEY RESULTS:** The following is the result of all the recent surveys that we have done with parents and illustrates what you said, how you feel about school and how we have responded or action we are planning to take:

- 99.3% of people are sure that their child is happy at Ambler.
- 97% say that their child feels safe at this school.
- 97% of people believe their child makes good progress.
- 97% feel that their child is well looked after at this school.
- 95% believe their child is taught well.
- 90% agree that their child receives appropriate homework.
- 96% agree that this school makes sure that its pupils are well behaved.
- 67% agree that the school deals effectively with bullying – 27% of parents felt they didn't know.
- 94% agree that the school is well led and managed.
- 80% agree that the school responds well to concerns that I raise.
- 88% agree that they get valuable information about their child's progress.
- 94% would recommend the school to other parents.

You said ...	We did....
<p><b>Homework</b> There were some concerns about homework and the amount of homework.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homework has changed from being project based to more curriculum focussed.</li> <li>• A day has been set for all children to receive and return their homework.</li> <li>• We are looking at the process of giving out homework to ensure that everyone receives the homework in their book.</li> <li>• There is a homework club to support children as well as a homework support session run by the learning mentor in the lunch hour to support children to complete their homework.</li> </ul> <p><b><i>If you have concerns about any aspect of homework please do come and talk to the teacher, phase leader or one of the leadership team.</i></b></p>
<p><b>Bullying</b> Although 67% felt bullying was dealt with effectively, some parents had concerns. As such a large proportion of parents felt they couldn't really comment as they don't know we felt it may be helpful to give you a clearer idea of what does happen here at Ambler.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We aim to prevent bullying through promoting respect and mutual tolerance. We talk about friendships and teach children to share and collaborate in the classroom. At playtime, we have trained "Playtime Buddies" as well as adults, to support children to resolve any issues which arise. Teachers regularly make use of "circle time" to discuss difficulties which may arise with the class.</li> <li>• Our Learning Mentor may also run a "Circle of Friends" intervention where children may need support with friendships and social skills.</li> <li>• Parent and children's workshops around bullying, Keeping Safe, including e-safety and cyberbullying are run each year. We have further workshops planned in the summer term, so keep a lookout once we have confirmed dates.</li> <li>• If you would like to know more our Anti-Bullying and Behaviour Policies are available on the website or by request in the school office.</li> </ul> <p><b><i>We pledge always to take any children's or parental concerns seriously and to deal with incidents immediately.</i></b></p> <p><u>Feedback from our children:</u> In a borough-led survey our children reported 9% sometimes stayed at home because they were worried about bullying, compared</p>

	<p>with 27% in the borough. In a nationwide survey taken with KS2 in June 2015 – children reported high satisfaction at Ambler including feeling safe – in the highest percentiles of any other schools participating in the survey.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our head boy said: “I think the school deals with bullying very well. Whenever someone tells a teacher they will always try to help. I’m a peer buddy and I sort out lots of things in the playground.”</li> <li>• Our head girl said “When someone gets bullied, the teachers will sort it out well. They will ask you every day how you are feeling and how it’s going”.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Parent teacher meeting time.</b> Some parents felt this was too short.</p>	<p>To help year 1 parents, that term, we held a question and answer session to help address any queries or concerns they had. We also doubled the consultation time on the following parents evening.</p>
<p><b>Information about child’s progress</b> Although 88% of parents agreed they received valuable information there were a few parents who felt they didn’t have enough information.</p>	<p>To ensure that parents receive effective information we have added:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coffee mornings on ‘supporting your child with reading, writing and phonics’, assessment without levels, and understanding Sat’s (year 2 and 6). There will be a ‘Phonics test’ session after Easter.</li> <li>• A ‘meet the teacher’ session at the start of the academic year in which the teacher outlines what their class will be doing.</li> <li>• Target sheets so that parents can see what the expectations are for each year in reading, writing and maths.</li> </ul> <p><b><i>If there are any other areas that parents would like further clarity on please do let us know so we can address this.</i></b></p>
<p><b>Transition to year 1</b> We are very aware that there is a difference for both children and parents as they progress from ‘learning through play’ led by the children’s centre to ‘national curriculum based’ learning in the main school</p>	<p>To support this transition we introduce new activities throughout the year to allow the children time to adjust. To make the process clearer for parents we have introduced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An introduction to year 1 session at the end of reception.</li> <li>• A year 1 – ‘question and answer’ session in the first term.</li> <li>• A ‘meet the teacher’ session with the children in the classroom.</li> <li>• A ‘frequently asked questions’ section on our website for all the questions that have come up so far about school life.</li> <li>• Year 1 leaflet explaining the process.</li> </ul> <p>This year we will also extend the leaflet into a welcome to year 1 booklet. <b><i>Next year we will be adding 4 meetings specifically for year 1 parents to help with any concerns or questions before any changes arise. If there are any areas of school life that have proved difficult or are a cause for concern please do let us know.</i></b></p>
<p><b>Parent handbook</b> There was quite a lot of interest in a parent handbook.</p>	<p>Currently if there are questions about school life you can speak to the class teacher, phase leader or senior leadership team – and/ or refer to the ‘Frequently Asked Questions’ (FAQ) on the website. <b><i>We are working on developing a Parent handbook. If you have any ideas or would like to be part of a working party let us know.</i></b></p>
<p><b>Supporting more able children</b> At Ambler we want all our children to achieve more and to achieve to their highest potential, this includes our more able children. We do this by:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Challenging children in class by giving them work of greater depth.</li> <li>• We use higher order questions to encourage children to think how and why, rather than to just re-call facts.</li> <li>• Our staff are trained in cognitive acceleration in maths and literacy, which encourages children to think deeply, to reason and to explain their thoughts.</li> <li>• We have also begun to teach Philosophy for Children which also promotes creativity and philosophical thinking.</li> <li>• Year 6 children who are more able in maths or literacy have the opportunity to attend a 6 week course at a local secondary school in September.</li> </ul> <p>We also strive to support our talented children through various initiatives including sponsored football training and arts projects.</p>
<p><b>Improving information and communication</b></p>	<p>We continually strive to improve communication and information processes. Our new website is regularly updated with news, attendance, school calendar, policies and other useful information. By texting information and reminders we try to ensure we give adequate notice of events so that parents can make necessary arrangements. <b><i>If you have any suggestions that you think could further improve our communication please do let us know.</i></b></p>