

6 January 2023
KOn/JWe

Dear Parents and Carers

Happy New Year and welcome back! I hope that you and your family were able to spend time slowing down and relaxing with friends and family members.

At the start of Term 2 I wrote to you to share a summary of the feedback we received from our parent voice survey and outline the next steps that we will take so that we can continue to work together to improve King's Oak for our children.

In this letter I would like to be able to give you an update on the work we have completed in response to your feedback; the boxes in yellow are a reminder of the next steps that we shared in Term 2 whilst the boxes in blue are an update on the progress we have made so far.

Thank you in advance for continuing to work positively and proactively with us in 2023 so that we can keep supporting children, families, and the local community as well as possible.

Kind regards



Katherine Ogden
Principal of King's Oak Academy

WORK HARD, BE KIND

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Communication – Key Dates and Reminders

To help inform and prepare families about upcoming events, starting in Term 2 we will send a weekly notification to parents with key dates and reminders for the diary – this short notification will be separate to the newsletters that you already receive on a fortnightly or monthly basis.

What have we done so far?

In Term 2 we trialled using our social media platforms (e.g., Facebook) to send reminders and quick updates to families alongside the notifications that we already share via Insight/Seesaw.

We hope that this form of communication has been helpful for families; from a school perspective, we have noticed an increase in messages via our comments and Messenger app which has allowed us to answer parent questions more quickly.

Later in Term 3 we will be sending another Parent Voice survey to you, within this survey we will be seeking feedback on the effectiveness and impact of our Term 2 and 3 social media content and communication with you.

A communication problem we have encountered for Y5-11

During the Christmas holiday, Insight updated their systems and removed their app which allowed you to receive a notification on your phone when we sent you a message/letter. You can still access Insight as a website link, and you will still receive email messages from us to notify you of letters that have been sent home.

However, we know that not all parents check their email accounts regularly and this might risk a message that we send to you being missed. We are trying to find a solution for this potential problem as quickly as possible and are also reviewing whether we will continue to use the Insight platform in 2023-24. Once we have established whether we can find a solution, we will write to you again, however, in the meantime, please check your email accounts regularly / keep an eye on our social media platforms and our website for updates about letters that have been shared via Insight.

Communication - Website

We are updating our school website and extra-curricular clubs schedule so that we can communicate with you and children more effectively about the wide range of free clubs and activities they can be involved in both during and after school.

What have we done so far?

In Term 2 we refreshed and updated our website and extra-curricular clubs' schedule. There are still some areas of our website that we are updating, but we hope that this platform is becoming more helpful and accessible for you to use.

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Communication – General Communications

We have taken onboard feedback about the need to improve our communication with families (i.e., frequency / timing / content – accuracy) and are taking steps to improve this immediately. We will ask you for feedback on this at the end of Term 3 to see if we have improved.

What have we done so far?

We have worked hard in Term 1 and 2 to improve the quality and timing of our communication with you. Occasionally we might make a mistake or need to clarify a message; thank you to any parent who contacts us to check information or offer us advice about our communications, we always appreciate your feedback and will keep working with you to make sure that our communication is as informative and helpful as possible!

Communication – Home Reports

We are going to review our learning and reporting schedule/systems to allow parents to feel better communicated with about what their child is learning each term and their progress. We will write to all families within the first few weeks of Term 2 with our plans for this and ask for your preferences on some of these reporting to parents plans.

What have we done so far?

This area we have not been able to act on as quickly as we would like to, however, you will shortly receive a letter from Andy Marshall-Aherne (Head of Upper School) to explain how we are intending to improve our reporting and sharing pupil progress information with you. In his letter, there is also an invitation for you to volunteer to join a working group to develop an academic reporting style/format that is more effective for both you and your child/ren.

SEND

This Term (Term 1) welcomed Lou Roscoe and Steph Balmond into their new roles (SENCo & Deputy SENCo) to ensure that children with SEND are well supported in their learning. Lou and Steph are now working closely with teachers and developing relationships with families – we will write to parents/carers of children with SEND again in Term 3 for more feedback about the quality of SEND provision in our academy.

What have we done so far?

I am delighted to confirm that today Lou Roscoe was appointed as our permanent SENCo! I am sure that you will want to join me in congratulating her on this news.

We have been working closely with our families of SEND children, increased the rate that we have been able to process EHCP Needs Assessments and we hope that you are now starting to see an improvement in our overall SEND provision at KOA.

As mentioned previously, Lou will be writing to parents/carers of children with SEND directly in Term 3 to talk in more detail about SEND provision in our academy.

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Anti-Bullying

We have re-written our anti-bullying policy to launch in Term 2. We hope that our approaches within this policy will help families feel incidents of bullying are responded to effectively. We are also about to introduce the Anti-Bullying Alliance: United Against Bullying (UAB) programme in Term 2 to support our whole school anti-bullying approach.

What have we done so far?

Please [click here](#) to access the new anti-bullying policy. Last term we also:

- Participated in Anti-Bullying Week (14-18 November 2022) & delivered a variety of anti-bullying awareness sessions/assemblies for our children across the all-through.
- Launched our participation in the Anti-Bullying Alliance programme
- Promoted the shoutoutkoa@clf.uk account for children (Y5-11) or parents to use to share any concerns in/outside of school. This account is also monitored each day during holiday periods in case a child needs to speak to a KOA adult urgently about their well-being.
- Shared a parent anti-bullying survey with you to complete so that we can launch targeted projects/anti-bullying interventions in Term 3-6.

We need your help!

Currently, we have only had 57 responses from parents in Year 5-11 to the Anti-Bullying Survey. We are eager to work with you to create an anti-bullying culture in our school therefore if you have not yet been able to complete the short survey, [please click here to participate](#) (deadline Thursday 12 January 2023). Thank you to the parents/carers who have already completed the survey & those that are about to shortly!

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