



Hamilton Primary School - *hmail GA9*

3 March
2010

Headteacher: Mr G Aldous

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Dear Parents,

Since September, I have had some very useful sessions with pupils, parents, staff and governors in order to collate the thoughts and feelings of our school community. We have discussed what we feel to be the strengths of the school and what makes us distinctive, what we would like our reputation to be and which areas we feel need to be improved. I will outline here some of the main findings.

It is quite clear from all groups that the strengths of the school lie in its people and relationships, with every group citing staff, good atmosphere, cultural inclusivity, friendliness, approachability, diversity and cohesiveness at the top of its lists. It is important to note that the children also say that our strengths include "being good friends", "playing with friends" and "sharing". There are far too many to list here, but some of the other areas also mentioned as strengths by all the groups include: Music, discipline (well behaved pupils), ethos for learning, academic results, pro active/supportive parents, size of the school, variety of activities, clubs, sports and trips.

It is interesting to note that the Governors and Staff wrote that the size of the school makes it distinctive. The overriding feeling of the whole community is that the school is distinctive because of its ethnic diversity, how this is celebrated and the wide range of support and opportunity open to the children at the school. High expectations and standards as well as good communication are also noted as making the school distinctive.

Looking to the future, we discussed the question of "What do you want the school to have a reputation for in the future?" There is a very clear joint vision that we want every child to be happy, well rounded and confident and to achieve academic excellence. Our pupils want the school to have a reputation for being happy, polite, hard working and co-operative. Comments also include the school being a stepping stone for the future. There are other points made about continuing with the wide opportunities available, developing the environment, being forward thinking and having innovative practice.

It was a pleasure to see that so much of the information collected from all the different groups was very similar, showing clearly that the school has a really strong sense of community and a clear vision of what makes us who we are!

It is important then for us to look at the aspects that were highlighted in the discussions as areas in which we need to improve and to include these in our development plan for the future, making sure that they are continuously reviewed so that we achieve and maintain our goals.

There are some very strong and collective thoughts about the improvements needed. The Staff are very keen to improve the learning environment and also the general environment of the school, both inside and outside. Governors did focus on the upkeep of the school, but also discussed reviewing curriculum and funding of particular areas. The Parents were very keen to improve the environment and buildings, but also wanted to improve communication in terms of what is taught and how, and to understand more about assessment. They also wanted greater consultation on change, a review of the banding system, the introduction of hot school meals and to ensure the safety of the children outside the school at the beginning and end of the day. The pupils also wish to improve cleanliness; they want to be a friendly school and to play outside more. [For future warning, the children in the Nursery would like to build a swimming pool!]

Thank you to everyone who worked with us in collating this information. Many of the areas highlighted in this review reaffirm my initial thoughts and will be reflected in the School Improvement Plan alongside the internal academic aims for continuing to raise standards. We have already started to address a number of the areas highlighted in this review and I look forward to updating you later in the year with the progress we are making towards achieving our goals.

NOTICES

ParentMail for next *hmail*

The next hmail sent home will be sent by ParentMail and will be on the school website. Only those families who haven't signed up for Parentmail will receive a paper copy. This will be a trial run and I would be pleased to receive your feedback.

TRAVEL PLAN NEWS

Parking Permits

Application forms for parking permits for the Summer term 2010 are available from the school offices. Closing date is Tuesday 16 March. Late applications will be considered after the start of next term.

FRIENDS OF HAMILTON

Reminders:

The **Auction** will be held on Saturday 27 March, starting at 7pm in the Hampden Road Hall

The next **Hot Dog** day will be on Friday 26 March, both sites.

Yours sincerely



Mr G Aldous
Headteacher