

The Prospective Parent Evening was held via Zoom on November 25th. Parents posted questions in the chat room. Here are the questions and the answers.

Do you have a high staff turnaround. lovely to hear that Mr Garnett has been there for 20 years! Mrs. Catchpole replied. “The Reception teachers have a combined 34 years of service to the school. We love working at North!” The Nursery Nurses and support assistants have also been in Reception for a number of years. It is a very strong team.

Please can you explain how it works with 2 teachers per reception class (if I have understood correctly) do they work alternate days? Does the class have a teaching assistant for the whole day? In one class Mrs Catchpole teaches Monday-Wednesday and Mrs Richards teaches Thursday and Friday. In the other class Mrs Arnold teaches Monday-Thursday and Mrs Ward teaches on a Friday. Both classes have full time Nursery Nurses – Mrs. Bennett and Miss Ferguson and both classes have learning support assistants too. It is an excellent staff/pupil ratio.

What is the outdoor space like? Is there much space and a field? Is there “free flow”between inside and outside learning in reception? Do you do Forest Schools? There is a large outdoor classroom giving children the space and resources to explore all areas of learning. You can see the children making good use of this provision in the film and the photos in the Year 6 slide show (both available on this website). Doorways out to the area do not lend themselves to “free flow”. Children use the outdoor learning areas in a structured and timetabled way, supervised by staff at all times. We are not a “Forest School” but we do have a woodland area and a garden.

Outside of the open door classroom policy, what are the regular parent comms touch-points? Is there a parent survey that you have available to see? Tapestry, Tapestry, Tapestry. All parents will be logged into this app which enable two-way private conversation and sharing of films and photos of the learning in school and in the home too. Parents love it, staff love it. It has been a while since we have conducted a parent survey. These have always been very positive and Ofsted reports have always highlighted the strong parental support for the school. One parent posted this message in the chat room - “Great presentation. We already have one child at North in year 3 and he loves it. He still talks about his time in Mrs Arnolds/Wards class - it was a great intro to school life for him. thanks again.”

What reading scheme do you follow please? In Reception we use Dandelion Launcher reading books and Oxford Reading Tree.

Do you do jolly phonics? We teach our phonics using a combination of Jolly Phonics and Letters and Sounds.

What's your behaviour management style / policy? The policy is available on the website. The style is what the policy looks like in practice? We aim to promote a nurturing environment where every child feels safe and supported in school. Expectations and boundaries are clear, children are shown how to meet them and those that struggle are given the guidance they need – and we work closely with the parents in these situations. As the Year 6s explained, there are three rights – to learn, to be respected and to feel and be safe. Every child is taught to safeguard those rights for others. We want the children to grow up to be independent and assertive, and to support each other.

Re wraparound care - what is the cost, timings, is there a waiting list and what sort of numbers does it hold? Sunrise Club starts at 7:45am until the school day begins. Breakfast is provided; the cost is £4.00 per session. The Sunset Club runs from 3:15pm until 5.45pm. A light snack is provided. These spaces are booked and charged at £5.00 per hour and a quarter session – your child does not have to stay until 5.45pm! Both clubs are payable half termly, in advance, via Parentmail. Capacity for these clubs is 28. The club is run by school staff.

How many first choice applications have you got over the last 3 years? The best way to answer this question is to talk about successful applications. We have 60 places available. Although we get many more than 60 applications every year, parents living in catchment nearly always get places and last year some out of catchment applicants were successful. The best advice is to put your favoured school as your first preference but do list your next three as well.