

In this newsletter, hear from:

- * Two year 4 parents
- * Two year 3 parents
- * Mrs Seddon-Hall our PE Specialist Teacher
- * Teachers at Reigate Parish - a mix of experience
- * A statement from the Governors on the school's data
- * 2017 data for Reigate Parish showing how we exceed national data in 2017 again

At the KS2 Presentation on Wednesday 6th December five parents spoke about their decision to keep their child at Reigate Parish or to move to Reigate Parish. In their own words this is what four parents said.....

From Year 4 Parents

From a mum of a Year 4 boy, who joined from attending a different school for his infant education

"Although Parish was given to us rather an option. As a family we are more than happy with it. Reigate Parish School in particular Mrs Kennedy and Mrs Andrew have worked really hard with our son's educational needs. He came to Parish after doing extra phonics, reading, writing and English at his old school. Parish has worked hard and he is meeting all his targets and even exceeding in several areas. Going into Year 4 Miss Crowe and Mrs Stowe have continued this excellence. His teachers at Parish 'got my child' and he went from being very anxious, stressed and angry little boy before Parish, to being enthusiastic and confident. In his own words 'I'm so happy at Reigate Parish. It's the best school and I'm glad I didn't go anywhere else.' I've found the school very nurturing and there is a big effort across the school to help with friendship and good values. I have seen this at first hand. Values are not just talked about they are implemented as well. This has all been implemented whilst going through the transition of turning into a Primary School. Standards haven't dropped in this time so I'm looking forward to his remaining years at Reigate Parish."

From the mum of a girl in Year 4, who was at Reigate Parish in Year 2

"My daughter is very sporty - loves football, netball, swimming, gymnastics, athletics etc - and I love that she gets to do all of that, and more, at Reigate Parish. Any concerns I had about the size of the site are completely forgotten now; she spends every break time and lunchtime playing on the MUGA (a fantastic, large space that can be used every single day of the year because it never gets muddy/waterlogged etc), has very high quality PE lessons and goes to a sports after school club (either teacher led or external provider) every day. She is being stretched and her talent nurtured as junior sport becomes more competitive, skills based and team orientated. However, more importantly for us as a family, I know that even if my two younger children turn out not to be good at sport, they'll still have the opportunity to be part of these clubs; this is the beauty of being part of a small and inclusive school.

Of course academic achievement is important, and I feel very confident that Reigate Parish will continue to exceed Surrey and National data year on year. But what's more important to me is that our children have the opportunity to experience every element of school and grow as whole people - they're too young to have doors closed to them just because they may not be the

“best” singer or the “best” runner. I’m grateful that Parish has the capacity to cater for all our children, whatever their ability, and all their achievements are celebrated.

An important part of the experiences Reigate Parish have given Jess are the school trips. They are, in her own words, “out of this world” - children are immersed in their topic for three whole days and parents are included through regular Marvellous Me messages and long, chatty emails from staff every evening about the day’s activities. This communication is unique to Parish, and gives parents something to talk about and ask about when the children get home, rather than just that dreaded “what did you do today?” question. At the early evening soirée (held in school) a few days after their return, children are thrilled to share the video of their trip and receive, in front of their parents and peers, their personalised certificate for something special to them that they achieved on the trip.

I asked my daughter what she loves about Parish, and she talked about these experiences and opportunities, as well as the new building and staff...and then she said, “and mummy, I love that even the dinner ladies know my name”. It reminded me how much I take Parish for granted; my child is so well cared for here, so well known, that even the lovely ladies in the kitchen who see her for thirty seconds a day know her. I’m so glad we didn’t risk all of this to see if the grass is greener. We have no regrets whatsoever about keeping Jessica at Reigate Parish for year three; she is so happy here.”

From a mum of a Year 3 boy who was at Reigate Parish in Year 2

“When our son started Reception in 2014 at RPCPS we just assumed he would go onto the Priory. My husband went to there and had the most amazing experience and all the feedback from friends had always been very positive.

When we found out RPCPS was expanding and we would have the option of staying, we were excited but had mixed feelings and lot of questions! After attending a couple of Q&A evenings (similar to this) and putting everyone through their paces (in a demountable classroom in the car park (where Year 3 were in 2016-2017)), what really struck accord with us was a real determination and commitment to make this (KS2) work. What was, already an amazing infant school offering us so much, could now as a primary school offer even more!! We personally didn’t need the absolute detail behind everything because we had faith in this team in front of you (Mrs Davis, Mrs Kennedy et al) and they would make it work and they wouldn’t settle for anything less.

My son is really enjoying year 3. He has continued to grow in confidence, develop, learn and most importantly is having fun! His existing friendships have grown whilst making new and we’re still talking about how amazing Ufton Court (the year 3 residential trip) was!!

As working parents before and after school care are key and we can’t recommend them highly enough. They are an extension of our family and really care about our children.

Every child is different and you need to do what’s best for your child.”

From a mum of a Year 3 boy, who joined from attending a different school for his infant education

“We moved our son to Reigate Parish from a local prep school. We went through the in-year application process and simultaneously applied to the local junior school in case we didn’t get a place at the Parish. We actually got offered places at both schools and for us there was no decision to be made, it was without a doubt Reigate Parish. Our son hadn’t completed the year 2 SATS but within the first half term Mrs Kennedy and Mrs Saunders had assessed him (without him realising), picked up on any gaps and are giving him targeted help to fill those gaps.

The difference in our son is already visible, he loves going to school and comes home full of facts and knowledge. He seems more confident and excited to learn. He loves the clubs on offer and got offered a place on each club that we applied for.

When I told people that we were leaving our old school and that we had chosen the Parish there were a few raised eyebrows and I thought I would address some of the comments that were made:-

"There is no outdoor space." The school obviously doesn't have a huge sports field but it does have an amazing all-weather pitch. Our son plays on the astro-turf every day and it is never closed due to the mud. Our son plays football and rugby at the weekends, and whilst they are held on huge fields in reality our son usually plays on an area smaller than the astro-turf.

"They're unproven at getting through children SATS." Whilst this is true the whole team is experienced and committed at getting each child to work to the best of their ability. We get a real sense that they are going above and beyond what they 'need' to do.

"A bigger school is better preparation for senior school." Once at full capacity Reigate Parish isn't actually that small at 420 pupils. The biggest change for children going to senior school isn't necessarily the size of the school but actually the independence and structure i.e. moving round the school. We believe that the nurturing environment of Reigate Parish will allow our son to flourish and become more confident which will prepare him for the move to senior school

As we approach the end of our first term we have no doubt that Reigate Parish is a wonderful school and we made the right decision to send our son, we can't quite believe our luck!"

In Mrs Seddon-Hall's words, writing about her position of PE specialist teacher at Reigate Parish.

"Hello my name is Mrs Seddon-Hall, I am the PE specialist teacher here at Reigate Parish. I started here 3 years ago when we were only an infant school. At that time my primary role in the school was to write all the lesson plans for all the year groups and to co-teach with all teachers to ensure that a high level of teaching was taking place within PE. I also set up lunchtime sporting activities for the different age groups and entered our year 2s into various external multi skills external sporting events that we still participate in today.

A little of my background...

I am initially from Canada and moved here in 2007. Sport has always been a massive part of my life. I played softball, basketball and football competitively throughout my childhood and adolescence. In my late 20s I moved to England from Canada to play football for Fulham Reserves and to start my teaching career. Since I was about the age of 9 I knew I wanted to be a PE teacher. I am now 10 years into my teaching career, I can't think of a better job. I absolutely love it. I have been very fortunate. Over my 10 years of teaching I have taught in 4 countries and 7 schools. I spent my first 5 years teaching solely secondary pupils from year 7 to A-level, before being introduced to primary and infant teaching. After a couple of years of teaching little ones in a private school, I realised that my passion was with primary school children, so I made the move across. In 2010 I spent two years in a school in Dubai similar to Reigate Parish in that we started as an infant school and we transitioned and grew into a primary school.

At Reigate Parish, my role has changed over the past couple years as we have grown into a primary school. I continue to write all the lesson plans for all year groups and also ensure that our pupils are given lots of sporting opportunities. Years 3 to 6 brings lots of exciting changes, one of which is the opportunity to represent their school in competitive sporting competitions. In years 3 and 4 there are 3 events available for schools to compete in, namely: Gymnastics, Cross Country and Athletics. These are external competitions which means pupils are selected to represent the school. Once selected they then compete against local schools. We participated in all 3 of these events last year and performed very well. I will share with you these results shortly.

Large vs Small Schools

There are 13 schools in our association. Schools are classified as large schools or small schools. Schools are placed in either in these categories based on the number of forms in a given year. Generally speaking a school with 1 or 2 form entry such as ours is classified as a small school. We

are a "small school" in these external competitive PE events. Schools with 4 or more form entries are considered a large school. It gets a bit tricky with schools that might have a bulge year and thus have 3 form entry. We tend to discuss those particular cases at meetings and decided where best to place that school for the various events. So what does this mean.....it means that although we may all be present at the same event, all 13 schools, when it comes to scoring, scores from small school are compared against scores of other small schools and ranked accordingly. This in my opinion is a very fair way of running these events.

Events and Results...looking back to year 3 and their results last year and looking at the events this year for year 3 and 4

Gymnastics

In Gymnastics, teams are made up of pupils from year 3 and 4. Despite only having year 3s last year and thus only a year 3 team we still managed to finish in 4th place, but we came 1st in the small school category. This academic year we started Gymnastics club in September, I ran two sessions on Mondays, one at lunchtime and one after school. This club was open to all abilities and we have over 31, KS2 pupils taking part. Presently pupils that are interested are try-out for the school team. Those selected will compete at the end of January.

Cross country

The cross country events take place in February. There are 2 events. The open run, and the competitive race. The open run allows us to take a larger number of pupils. This year we are aiming to bring 64 pupils, 32 girls and 32 boys across years 3 and 4. From there the top 8 girls and top 8 boys will be invited to the competitive race. Both these races take place in Priory Park. Last year our year 3 girls came in 3rd place against year 3/4 teams. Again we only had year 3 pupils. In preparation for this event pupil's start their cross country unit in PE in January. We also have a running club that currently takes place Fridays at lunchtime with Mrs Saunders and Mrs Adams.

Holly Run

This year for the first time, for pupils who are 8 years old or older, have been invited to participate in this competitive cross-country race, a mile in length, held in Priory Park and organised by Reigate Priory Athletics Club (RPAC). It is hugely popular, with many athletics clubs and a local school participating. This year Mrs Saunders has led on getting team together to run in this race.

Athletics

In June there is the District Sports / Athletics competition (track and field events) that takes place at Hartswood, Reigate Grammar School's sporting grounds. Last year we brought our year 3 pupils and we performed exceptionally well, placing in the top 3 in almost every single event. Our results were:

- 1st in boys distance throw
- 2nd in girls distance throw
- 1st in girls 300m
- 2nd in girls 300m
- 2nd in boys 300m
- 2nd in boys 50m
- 1st in the girls 4x50m shuttle run
- 2st in the boys 4x50m shuttle run

From my calculations that mean our year 3 pupils placed in first place in the small school category.

Football

This year for the first time there is a girls' and a boys' football tournament that will take place in March. We will be attending both these tournaments. Pupils are selected for the team based on their performance in class and/or club. Last year our year 3 pupils, girls and boys had a handful of games that we initiated, organised, arranged and hosted here on our lovely field.

Years 5-6

In years 5 and 6 we will continue to participate in the gymnastics, cross country and district sports but we will also take part in football league and the high five netball league. We will also look into participating in some tournaments such as cricket or hockey. These leagues and tournaments are only available to schools in years 5 and 6.

Sports Clubs

Our school offers a wide number of school sports clubs, some of which are put on by teachers and others that are provided by external providers. This year we offering in KS2: Football, Netball, Gymnastics, Dodgeball, Running Club, Tennis, Athletics and I am in the process of trying to organise a cricket coach to come into school for a club in the summer term. These clubs are open to everyone.

Dance Show

In year 3 all pupils participate in a Dance show called a "Class Act" held at The Harlequin. We have a dance instructor from Reigate School of Ballet come into school to choreograph and teach our pupils a dance routine. Our year 3 pupils then go to the Harlequin to perform alongside other schools. As you can imagine some pupils felt a little daunted about learning and performing a dance routine in front of an audience but it was absolutely amazing....pupils just blossomed with the high level of coaching that they had and they (and school) were so proud of their performance at the end.

Swimming

In year 3 all pupils do swimming in the summer term. Swimming lessons take place at Reigate Grammar School. It is a government criteria for all Primary pupils to swim confidently 25m. School employs two swimming instructors who take the groups. Those children that need more lessons to swim the minimum 25m will have lessons in year 4 and parents are encouraged to find swimming lessons so their child has this essential life-skill and will always be safe in water.

Facilities

If you haven't done so already be sure to have a look at our wonderful facilities. We have a fantastic Muga were we can host the netball and football matches in year 5 and 6. We also have a very spacious Junior Hall where we can run various activities and sports.

Kit

Excitingly we now have a brand new Sports kit that we will wear at the sporting competitions. The children will love putting on their team kit to represent their school and it will be good to see our children competing all dressed in the kit.

Parents' Feedback

We have had a lovely open dialogue with parents about sport. We always welcome your thoughts and ideas. Last year I was unable to attend the gymnastics competition and one of the parents wrote a lovely email with thoughts and ideas for us to think about going forward and I am implementing some of these ideas as we speak."

Two governors were in school on Thursday 7th December undertaking the annual “Data” monitoring visit. They have written this to year 2 parents:

Dear Frances,

Thank-you for hosting us on our Governor visit this morning. We saw really good evidence across the school of the standards being achieved, the core values of the school and the breadth of teaching across and outside the national curriculum.

We spoke about the Year 2 parents who are currently in the process of deciding to stay at the Parish for Key Stage 2. You highlighted that there is currently no performance data for the school at the end of Key Stage 2 and how this can make the decision harder to make. During the visit we reviewed the overall performance data for Year 3 last year and the current performance data for all those in Key Stage 2. You described the plan to get from a school with children in Year 3 and Year 4 to becoming a full primary school.

Having reflected on all of the data and observations we made this morning I wanted to pass on my confidence in the performance data we do have.

On behalf of the Governing Body, I'd like to encourage those parents who are making the decision that the school is on great track, with a teaching team who really understand the needs of all of their children and are agile to making adjustments to the teaching process to keep all of the children growing and maximising their potential.

My thanks once again for hosting us on the visit, we will send through the full report in the next week.

Many Thanks,
The Governing Body

Teachers at Reigate Parish - a mix of experience

We employ teachers at school with a wide range of experience including NQTs (Newly Qualified Teachers) who bring with them experience of best practice in other schools and the latest training. NQTs are qualified teachers who have undergone rigorous training and assessment to achieve their qualification. In their first year in school every NQT, statutory, receives additional professional training from experienced teachers.

To confirm the Year 3 teachers next year (2018-2019) will be Mrs Kennedy, Mrs Andrews and Mrs Saunders. They are our current year 3 teachers and are looking forward to staying in the year group for a third year.

In January I will be advertising for two teachers to join the teaching team, whether it's in KS1 or KS2.

2017 Data for the Government tests or teacher assessment Children Took

The data shows again how we exceed the national averages at every stage of a child's education and in both the "expected" standard and the "greater depth" standard in the National Curriculum at the end of KS1.

	2017 Nationally	2017 Reigate Parish Church Primary School
Reception Good Level of Development Teacher assessment	71%	88%
Year 1 phonics check Test	81%	85%
Of those who have to take phonics check in Year 2 Test	92%	100%
Year 2 SATS Reading got "Expected +" Teacher assessment	76% Of which "Greater depth" was 25%	88% Of which "Greater depth" was 30%
Year 2 SATS Writing got "Expected" Teacher assessment	78% Of which "Greater depth" was 16%	83% Of which "Greater depth" was 20%
Year 2 SATS Maths got "Expected" Teacher assessment	76% Of which "Greater depth" was 21%	89% Of which "Greater depth" was 22%

Thank you to the parents and to Mrs Seddon-Hall who spoke at the KS2 Presentation on 6th December and for allowing me to re-print their words so the whole school community could read what they said.