



Cavendish News Extra

www.cavendish.manchester.sch.uk

www.cavendishpta.org.uk

Monday 17th December 2012

Ofsted Parent View

As you may be aware, Ofsted now give only 24 hours notice of inspection. This means that they have stopped distributing the paper questionnaire for parents and carers that used to be sent home with each child. Instead, they have an online questionnaire that parents and carers can complete at any time. We hope that you will be able to spare a few minutes to go online and answer the 12 short questions they ask on their website. Here's how:

Go to: www.ofsted.gov.uk. Right click on the white box on the right hand side of the page - it's marked 'Parent View'. Follow the instructions to register - you will need an email address for this - and you will be able to access the questionnaire.

Completing the questionnaire is now the main way in which you as a group can make your feelings about our school known to Ofsted, so please take 10 minutes or so to go online and fill it in. If you don't have the internet at home but would like to use a computer in school to do the questionnaire, please let me know as we can arrange for you to come in at a time when the children are not working in our ICT suite.

School Trips

A good question came up at our governors' meeting last Thursday about school trips. Some parents and carers have wondered why we charge for the children to go out of school when the school is already funded by the government.

The answer is that we do not receive funding to cover extra activities such as school trips. The National Curriculum could feasibly be covered entirely in school, and school funding enables us to do this.

However, at Cavendish we believe that taking the children off site to visit museums, galleries, historic buildings etc really enriches and deepens their learning, so we try to ensure that all children get regular opportunities to go out to places of interest that link with their class topics. As you know, there are usually entrance fees to pay and coach travel on top, which means that one class trip can cost around £400. If each class has 3 trips over a year it amounts to more than £14 000!

Wherever possible, we try to subsidise the costs of trips to keep them as cheap as possible, and the fund raising work of our PTA has helped tremendously with this - another good reason to get involved! We can also make payment arrangements with individual families when necessary, and this is done in absolute confidentiality. I don't want sound patronising in any way, but we have a very diverse population at Cavendish and the country is subject to austerity measures that are hitting people hard - we know it's not always easy if you have children in school to constantly keep paying out. All governors at Cavendish are determined that no child will ever miss out on trips due to financial hardship. I hope that helps to clarify the need we have to charge for school trips.