

How do we respond to your ideas/suggestions?

Here is a summary of a wide variety of suggestions and our responses.

Some suggestions are raised on an ad hoc basis while others come from our annual surveys which take place in the second half of the school year so that we can implement any changes needed ready for the start of the next academic year. In addition if we have a general query we add it to our online noticeboard/school twitter – [click this link](#) (the latest) to see some examples.

You requested	We responded
To pay online and not by cash	We introduced WisePay for online payments.
To help book holidays, can I have more notice of school INSET days	These are now set at the start of the summer term before the new academic year starts in the autumn each year.
To fill out EV5 online	We add it in Word to the website so you can either print or email it to us.
For a one-way system when entering and leaving the school site	We put a one way system in place.
Childcare before and after school	We worked with the Pre-School to provide this before and after school.
A shorter more assessment driven annual school report	We organised a parent working group who looked at a range of samples before we decided upon the final version.
For help with homework	We put in place a homework club – places allocated on a needs basis.
To reduce the number/cost of trips including residential	In the 2021 survey you voted for 2 trips a year (around £15-£25) and one residential – this is now in place.
For the daily mile track to be less muddy	Stage one of our track was gravel (due to funding and to see how much it was used) and therefore we went ahead with stage two and had tarmac added.
A shelter for children to be outside when raining	We installed several different types.
Water to be more assessable in the school day for refilling water bottles rather than just the outdoor water fountain	We installed an indoor bottle refilling machine with cool filtered water and outdoor sinks with taps.
For the induction programme for reception pupils to be reduced	We now have a one week phased start with school lunches from week 2.
School photos not to be modern class ones but the older traditional class group style	We have altered our provider we now do the portraits and the traditional school class photo.
To stop school swimming lessons	In the 2021 survey you voted for a KS2 water sports trip each year and catch up swimming for those who need it in order to swim 25m by the time they leave year 6 – this is now in place.
Not to ask children to bring in treats for their class for their birthday due to escalating costs	We introduced 'wear mufti on your birthday' days rather than bringing in treats.
A summary of tweets so we don't lose track	We do this each Friday and post on our online noticeboard.

Advance notice of trips and events	We created an online calendar which is on the website and inform you of the trips and approximate costs at the start of the year.
For Reception parents to meet teachers before the children start	In 2021 we introduced an after school tour of the school.
Smaller classes	Sadly we can only operate within the funds we have – class sizes in KS1 have to be under 30. Class sizes vary each year depending on cohort size and if there are two year groups.
For help with the cost of some PTA events	Confidential financial help is available by contacting the school office.
For better facilities for football	We worked with the PTA and sourced grants to build out MUGA.
For more sporting activities	We appointed a member of teaching staff to lead PE and now also have a sports assistant, covid has delayed some of our plans but they are now starting to progress.
To wear PE kit on PE days and review the PE kit	As part of the 2021 survey we asked your views and restyled the PE kit and asked you about any uniform changes you wanted – the new uniform guide is on the website.
To reduce the amount of fundraising	We now follow any national events such as Children In Need but ask you to donate locally should you wish to reduce the pressure and have one summer fundraising event which is linked to our school values and on a theme relevant at the time. For example, when our Deputy Head died we raised money for St Margaret's Hospice.
To reduce queues in the main entrance reception desk to hand in letters	We introduced a school lunches and school post box in the outside lobby where items can be posted and do not need to be personally handed in. After lockdown we have also taken the office to the gate in the sense that staff are available each day and can collect medicines, pass on messages and answer any queries.
To attend church with my child	Pre-Covid - We created opportunities for families to attend church together by collecting them from school to sit with you and go home after. 2022 – We are now organising some family services in family house groupings to allow other relatives to be invited and not just parents/carers so there is an opportunity for people to fit comfortably in the church without being overcrowded.
To run sports day and Christmas plays during 2021 covid	We ran a sports day for each class and a Christmas church festivity for each class – this enable extended family to be involved as well as respect the current covid guidelines which were in place.
For parent workshops on reading, phonics, maths and online working	These were requested in our 2021 survey and are taking place in the spring term 2022.
More space in reading records to write messages	We remodelled the pupil diaries in September and now have a large space for messages.

Asked for help with parking/driving around High Ham issues	A working party was organised by the Parish Council and they met online in June 2021 and are planning to put some things in place to help congestion.
To reduce the need to do homework	We updated the homework policy to include compulsory homework for year five and six with homework being set for all children (but not compulsory) to please the parents/carers who wanted work to do at home with their children.
Can we have refunds for sessions not gone ahead, for example swimming	Where we have been unable to provide a trip we have refunded any donations given. This is only possible for swimming when the whole block of swimming hasn't taken place.
Can we offer more 1:1 emotional support	We offer a graduated response which is outlined in detail on the school website and now includes both ELSA and PFSA support.
A discount for bulk ordering of school hot dinners in KS2	Mrs Giles now offers this and details are on the lunches page of the school website.
For help with lifts to sports events	We asked the PTA if their class representatives would help parents if needed to find lifts.
To improve the school toilets	This has been on our development plan for a number of years but funds have prevented this happening. However, in 2021 we have had some problems with groundworks and consequently we are hoping to get the main school (near library) toilets replaced in 2022 as long as the school groundwork problems can be solved within this timeframe.
For single year group rather than mixed classes	This is not financially viable; we are a six class primary school. We split the year groups each year depending on pupil numbers. In our 2022 survey we will be seeking parent/carer views regarding our approach to splitting classes and then will follow up accordingly when we plan for autumn term 2022.
For part of the day in single year groups	We tried to do this in phonics and maths in the autumn 2021 but in the spring 2022 we could not continue due to not having the staffing available and finding the system unworkable. Hence as mentioned above we will be seeking views in the 2022 stakeholder survey which happens in the second part of the year) before we set our 2022/23 class structure.
To reintroduce clubs after lockdown	We started to introduce some outside ones but then our covid rates were high and we needed to delay restarting them. More will be available in the latter part of the spring term 2022.
Online parents' evening	We put school cloud in place (which Huish Academy also use) but also offer face to face appointments for anyone who needs this.
To see your child's work, like we used to when it was pre covid	We now host sessions to view work the week before.

Improving school lunches	The school council met with Mrs Giles and suggested items and the menu is now reviewed termly – further details on the school website.
For individual music lessons to be reintroduced after lockdown	Due to the number of interventions we now have in place, we have a limited number of rooms available. The music company were not able to provide lessons when we had space available for 2021/22. For 2022/23 we are working with the local secondary school to provide lessons with their teacher on our school site.
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