



HEADTEACHER  
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14th May 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Butlers Court Parents' Survey – March 2025**

Thank you to those parents who completed the annual parent/carer survey before the Easter break. We had 62 respondents whose feedback has been extremely useful as we continue to provide the best possible provision we can at Butlers Court.

The last years' surveys have always been incredibly informative leading us to review some of our procedures including our parent consultation evenings format, communications, SEN procedures, school site improvements, mental health provision and hot school meals.

Whilst we cannot respond to every comment, we have taken on board everything that you have said and tried to draw out the key themes here so that you can see what has been said and how we are responding. We are however incredibly grateful to all of you for the positive comments we have received, particularly around the caring and safe environment and atmosphere at Butlers Court, the range of enrichment activities provided and the dedicated, enthusiastic and hard working staff.

Some of the other points that were highlighted we have addressed below:

#### ***“Schools meals do not seem to always be enough or reflect a healthy lifestyle”***

We are pleased to report that, since Dolce began preparing and cooking meals on-site here, both staff and children agree that we have seen a significant improvement in the quality of our hot school meals, resulting in more meals being taken.

We regularly meet with Dolce, who are responsible for setting our menus, and we will continue to share your feedback on menu choices and portion sizes with them. Dolce, like all school meal providers, are required to follow the Department for Education's School Food Standards, which set out clear expectations for both the nutritional content and portion sizes of school meals.

If you would like to share any further feedback or comments about our school meals, please contact Dolce directly. This helps ensure your views are heard and can be addressed by the team providing the meals.

#### ***“Boom Reader is not as easy to use as a reading record book, and another app on a device we would rather not use”***

Over the past two years, we have been using the Boom Reader app to record home reading. While many parents have appreciated the convenience of the app, many families reported in our survey that they find the app clunky or difficult to use and that many prefer not to use electronic devices before bed, when children are often reading. We have also noticed ourselves, that staff have found Boom Reader challenging to monitor all children's reading, as not all children are using the app consistently.

After considering this feedback from both parents and staff, we have decided that from September we will revert to using a paper reading record book for all children. This will ensure every child or parent can record children's reading easily, and staff can effectively monitor and support children's progress. We will of course however review this arrangement in the Autumn term.

#### ***“The cost of school trips are expensive”***

We take great pride in the wide range of enrichment opportunities we provide for our children here. Our school trips, especially our residential visits, are a particular strength of our enrichment programme and offer valuable, memorable experiences beyond the classroom. These trips give children access to learning opportunities and skills that simply can't be replicated in a classroom environment.

Our residential visits in Years 4, 5, and 6 are highlights of the school year. They allow children to develop independence, teamwork, and communication skills, as well as the confidence that comes from spending time away from home. We are delighted that, in our survey, there was overwhelming support for continuing these. However, we are very mindful of the costs involved, especially given the current cost-of-living pressures affecting many families. While we work hard to keep costs as low as possible, for example, by arranging a local venue for

our Year 5 trip, we recognise that the expenses can be challenging, particularly for families with siblings attending the same trip or when trips are scheduled close together, such as the Year 4 and Year 5 residential.

We want to assure you that we have taken your feedback on board. As a result, we will be reviewing the timing of our trips for next year and exploring alternative, more affordable options for the Year 4 residential particularly. Our aim is to ensure these valuable experiences remain accessible to as many pupils as possible, without losing the enrichment benefits they bring.

We truly believe in the value of these trips and are committed to making them work for our whole school community. We will keep you updated with our plans for next year as they develop.

### ***Parents Consultations***

I'm pleased to share that parents have been overwhelmingly positive about our current approach, particularly the face-to-face consultations in the Spring term. Many of you appreciated that these meetings ran to time and offered the valuable opportunity to meet in person, look through your child's exercise books and see some of their art work.

We also heard from a number of parents who found the virtual consultation option especially helpful. We recognise that this format offers greater flexibility for working parents and reduces the need to arrange additional childcare. A few parents suggested that appointment slots could be longer. We understand the desire for more time to discuss your child's progress. However, please bear in mind that teachers meet with at least 30 families during these evenings, sometimes more, especially when accommodating separated families, on top of their full teaching day. For staff wellbeing and work-life balance, it isn't reasonable to lengthen these appointments.

That said, we are always keen to support you and your child. If you feel you need a longer or follow-up conversation with your child's teacher, please do not hesitate to contact us to arrange an additional meeting at a mutually convenient time.

A few parents mentioned that appointments in the school hall can sometimes be noisy, which might make it difficult to hear or could raise concerns about confidentiality. While our staff have not fed back that it has been hard to hear during appointments, we recognise this is important and will review our arrangements to ensure everyone feels comfortable; it may be that with our permanent stage now removed from our hall, creating more space, these appointments in the hall may be easier. Please be assured that if there is ever a need to discuss something confidential, we will arrange a separate, private meeting at another time.

We've also heard that many of you would value the opportunity to see your children's classrooms and look through their work. In response, we are delighted to announce that we will be holding an Open Afternoon after half term. This will give you the chance to visit your child's classroom, see their books, and chat informally with their class teacher.

### ***Technology – online learning apps and communication***

We know how challenging it can be for families to manage the many different apps and programs children need for home learning. In our ever-evolving technological world, keeping track of multiple platforms, passwords and logins is a challenge for all of us.

We understand that many parents find it frustrating to remember so many details just to help children complete their tasks and activities at home. With this in mind, we introduced RM Unify as a single sign-on portal to make accessing learning resources easier for both children and parents.

However, we recognise that RM Unify has not always been as efficient or user-friendly as we had hoped. We want to reassure you that we are reviewing this situation. We are working closely with our IT technical support partners to improve the experience for everyone. If we find that improvements are not possible, we will also explore alternative programmes that better support our children and families. We are committed to making home learning as straightforward and accessible as possible for all our children and parents.

### ***“Extra-Curricular Activities – more options for younger children and could include more non-sports clubs eg - Lego, programming, music, art, cooking, gardening, chess”***

At Butlers Court School, we are committed to providing a wide range of activities to enrich our pupils' experiences outside the classroom. This term, we are delighted to offer 18 extra-curricular clubs, with at least three running each day. Last term, we were able to offer even more, and we are always reviewing and developing our provision based on your suggestions.

Staff are not paid to organise and run extra-curricular clubs and we would like to take this opportunity to thank those dedicated staff, who volunteer their own time to organise and run clubs for the benefit of our pupils.

To increase the number of extra-curricular activities, if you, or someone you know, would be interested in running an extra-curricular club - whether it's sports, arts, crafts, music, or another area—we would love to hear from you! We welcome new ideas and partnerships to broaden the opportunities available to our children.

### ***“Greater Opportunities to Stretch Pupils”***

It is a continual challenge for a class teacher to provide the right level of challenge and support for all children in a class of 30 in every lesson, however this is definitely something that we always strive to do. Generally, each class has a teaching assistant who will work with those children requiring support, meaning the teacher works with the remainder of the class, differentiating the tasks accordingly, including providing stretch challenges. In some lessons the teacher will work specifically with one group or other in order to provide an extra level of additional support or further challenge. We always review our provision carefully and make adjustments where possible to best support our pupils within the budget restraints and resources we have. If you have any specific concerns about your child's progress or the level of support and challenge, they are receiving, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher. We are here to work in partnership with you and want every child to thrive.

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you again to everyone who took the time to complete the parent survey; your feedback is incredibly important to us and plays a vital role in helping us continually improve the experience and education we provide for every child at Butlers Court School.

As I mentioned earlier, it was heartening to read the many positive comments you shared about the caring, safe environment and atmosphere here and the dedication, enthusiasm and hard work of our staff team. Thank you.

The survey was anonymous so if you raised a specific concern in relation to your child, I would sincerely encourage you to contact the child's teacher directly as we wish to do the very best for every child.

Thanks again for your continued support; it is very much appreciated.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "S Butler". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Mr S Butler  
Headteacher