



Checkendon Church of England (A) Primary School

Respect Integrity Compassion Courage Hope

Email: office.3801@Checkendon.oxon.sch.uk

September 2025 Newsletter 83



Parent views

Thank you to everyone who shared their thoughts in our parent survey and report card feedback in July. Your comments are invaluable in helping us celebrate what's working well and focus on the areas where we can improve. We've combined the feedback and grouped into key themes. As with all surveys, the full responses are published on our website:

1. Children are happy and love school

Parents overwhelmingly told us that children enjoy coming to school, feel excited to learn, and benefit from our welcoming atmosphere. Many shared how their child's love for learning shines at home.

"He still loves school! He loves you all!"

"She is always excited to share what she's learning."

"We feel very lucky to be part of such a nurturing and caring school."

2. Strong relationships and care

Kindness, individual attention, and genuine care from staff were key themes. Parents value how well staff know their children and the positive relationships that underpin learning and wellbeing.

"Thank you for being such an engaged, open-minded and caring teacher."

"Checkendon is a kind and nurturing environment where children thrive."

"His report described him perfectly – thank you for knowing him so well."

3. Clear progress and growing confidence

Many parents noted strong academic and personal growth this year, with particular progress in reading, maths, writing, and independence. Children's growing confidence and pride in their achievements were frequently celebrated.

"His confidence has grown so much."

"We are so proud of the progress she has made – especially in her reading."

"It's been amazing to see her grow so much with her learning."

4. Quality of teaching and reports

Detailed, personalised school reports were highly valued, particularly the inclusion of pupil voice. Teachers were described as hardworking, inspirational, and committed to each child's success.

"The report was lovely to read – thank you for the detailed and personalised comments."

"Teachers are truly inspiring, and the children feel valued and supported."

5. Leadership and whole-school culture

Strong leadership was frequently mentioned, with thanks to Mrs Hillier and staff for setting a positive tone and high expectations. Parents recognised that our culture of care and aspiration is modelled from the top down.

"It's clear that the school's positive culture starts from the top."

"We appreciate the leadership and how the culture spreads throughout the school."

6. Broad, enriching curriculum

From art and forest school to music, judo, sport, and performances, parents appreciated the range of experiences on offer. These activities help children discover new strengths and passions.

"The range of activities is amazing – he called Sports Day the best ever!"

"Forest school and creative subjects have really allowed her to shine."

7. Support for transition and inclusion

New starters and children moving into new year groups have been well supported, with parents noting the positive impact on settling in and confidence. Children with additional needs have received strong, personalised support.

"After a difficult start, he had a really good year thanks to your support."

"Thank you for helping her feel so welcome and ensuring she settled in well."

One comment in the survey suggested we could be more inclusive, a surprising outlier given the wealth of positive feedback. Following our Whole School SEND Review, the external reviewer concluded:

"Inclusion is not merely an idea, but a lived reality across the whole school community."

We remain fully committed to ensuring every child is included, supported, and able to thrive.

Areas for Development

While the feedback was overwhelmingly positive, you raised some useful points for us to work on:

- **Communication & event planning:** More notice for certain events; clearer online booking for parents' evenings.
- **Home learning and guidance for home support:** Mixed views were expressed on the amount and style of home learning, which aligns with the results of our earlier parent survey. We will continue to seek your views.
- **Attendance & Punctuality:** Clearer explanations of how lateness is measured and communicated.

In summary:

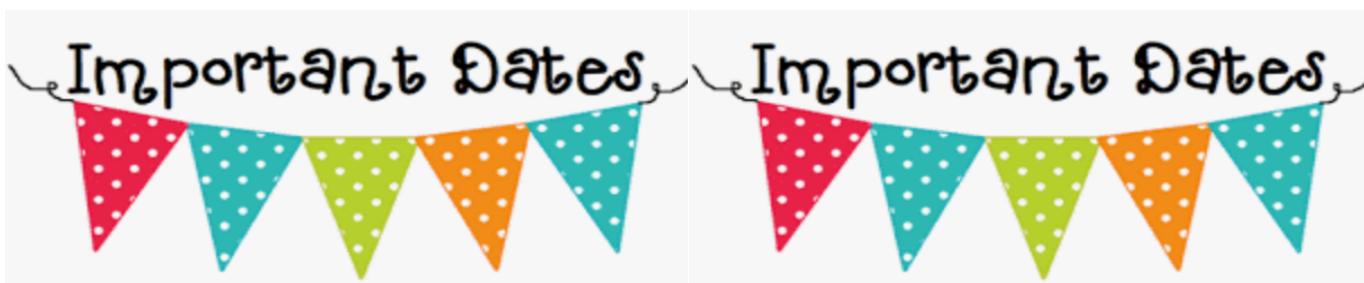
Your feedback shows that children here are happy, thriving, and benefiting from strong teaching, leadership, and a rich curriculum. We are proud of our inclusive ethos and the way our school community works together, and we are always looking ahead to see how we can be even better. We want to hear from you, your views make a difference. Please get in touch at any time to share your thoughts, ideas, or concerns so we can keep improving together.

Is your child well enough for school?

Deciding whether your child should stay home with a sniffle or cough can be tricky. We've included this handy **NHS table** to help guide you on when it's best to keep little ones home and when it's fine for them to come in.



We look forward to seeing you at the Parent Information Sessions this week – please do come along to learn about your child's class routines and learning.



Term 1

Monday 15th September 8.50 Oak Class Parent Information Session

Monday 15th September PM Oak Class Forest

Monday 15th September 3pm Acorn Class Parent Information Session

Wednesday 17th September 3pm Silver Birch Class Parent Information Session

Thursday 18th September Swimming 1

Thursday 18th September 3pm Willow Class Parent Information Session

Thursday 25th September Swimming 2

Wednesday 1st October 2025 at 2.30 Harvest Festival in the church (all welcome)

Thursday 2nd October Swimming 3

Thursday 9th October Swimming 4

Thursday 16th October Swimming 5 (last one)

Friday 17th October 2025 9am Open Celebration Worship (all welcome)

Wednesday 22nd October 2025 at 3.20 term ends

Thursday 23rd October 2025 INSET – First Aid training for all staff

Friday 24th October 2025 INSET Day

October holiday Monday 27th October 2025 – Friday 31st October 2025

Term 2

Monday 3rd November 2025 Term starts

Wednesday 17th December 2025 2.30 Christmas Church Service (all welcome)

Friday 19th December 2025 9am Open Celebration Worship (all welcome)

Friday 19th December 2025 at 1 pm term ends

Christmas holiday Monday 22nd December 2025 – Friday 2nd January 2026

Term 3

Monday 5th January 2026 Term starts

Friday 13th February 2026 Open Celebration Worship (all welcome)

Friday 13th February 2026 at 3.20 Term ends

February holiday Monday 16th February 2026 – Friday 20th February 2026

Term 4

Monday 23rd February 2026 Term starts

Wednesday 25th March 2026 at 2pm Holy Communion Easter Service (all welcome)

Friday 27th March 2026 Open Celebration Worship and class cups (all welcome)

Friday 27th March 2026 at 1 pm Term ends

Easter holiday Monday 30th March 2026 – Friday 10th April 2026

Term 5

Monday 13th April 2026 Term starts

Monday 4th May 2026 Bank Holiday Monday (no school)

Wednesday 20th May 2026 at 1.30 Pentecost followed by Maypole and Country Dancing (all welcome)

Friday 22nd May 2026 Open Celebration Worship (all welcome)

Friday 22nd May 2026 at 3.20 Term ends

Late Spring holiday Monday 25th May 2026 – Friday 29th May 2026

Term 6

Monday 1st June 2026 INSET Day

Tuesday 2nd June 2026 Term starts

Wednesday 15th July 2026 at 2.30 Celebration Worship in church (all welcome)

Friday 17th July at 9am Open Celebration Worship and Class Cups (all welcome)

Friday 17th July 2026 at 1pm Term ends

Monday 20th July 2026 INSET Day