

# The We Are Family Challenge!



30<sup>th</sup> June 2017

Dear Parent/carer,

Thank you again for all the support so many of you have given the project over the academic year. As part of reflecting on our year of family challenges, I asked pupils for feedback on how successful they felt the initiative had been. Their responses, as you would expect, were honest and enthusiastic!



Older children in school had no difficulty remembering all of the challenges. Year 1/2 and 3/4 children needed reminding of the names of the challenges first. Outdoor Time and No Screen Time seemed to be the most memorable. For many children, they had an anecdote associated with a family event planned specially as part of one of the challenges and these were really interesting to hear about.

I asked the children what kinds of things they did that were different from their usual routine; these varied of course, from family to family:

Had more time to read	Read with my brother
Made lemon cake	Hiked – we never used to do that
Played cricket as a family	Planted flowers
Talked about dinosaur fossils	Played card games
Made lego models and lego animatic	Played board games
Played tennis for the first time	Made bread
Climbed a tree	Played in the alley – got outside more
Walked the dog a lot more	Trampolining
Had a barbeque together	
Went to the park more	

I asked why they had enjoyed the challenges; they got straight to the heart of what really matters:

We can do it as a family and we didn't used to get the chance  
Because it means getting together and having fun  
You can use your imagination to play or to read. It's so hard to imagine on a screen  
It meant we stuck with one story for a long time  
The beautiful places I could see on our walks  
I love my family!  
It was something new/ something fun  
I wasn't by myself, I was with other people  
I like fresh air  
I play better with my brother now  
There's nothing new on TV – it's all the same  
It makes things easy to play with your family

When I asked what other challenges they would have liked to take part in, a sports challenge and a specific cycling challenge were suggested. I will leave those ideas for you to plan as a family!

There are clear successes here where families from all phases of school have made more effort to do things together. Children have greater awareness of the need to limit screen time, and enjoy a range of interests. This would not have been possible without your willingness to engage with the challenges, so again, thank you.

Dani Rees  
Deputy Headteacher