Farsley Farfield Blogging Survey

Many thanks to the 187 parents that responded to our survey about the class blogs. The response to the blogs was overwhelmingly positive (would the one very negative Y3 respondent like a chat about things?).
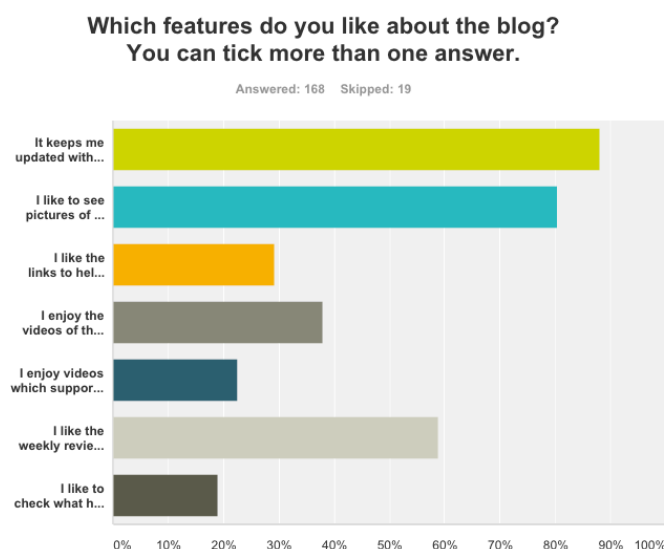
FAQ/Responses to comments:

Why isn't the site password-protected like the old system?

The old system was, in effect, just a weekly electronic newsletter. Parents all had the same username and password and it wasn't, in reality, very secure.

A blog aims to have a much wider audience and is much more interactive. Some of the best blogging has involved authors, illustrators, historians, software developers and wider family members who have commented on our

Which features do you like about the blog? You can tick more than one answer.

Answered: 168   Skipped: 19

postings. Many of these have come from around the world. Placing a password on the sites would very much limit this. Some other schools also have 'open' blogs, e.g. http://aroomwithaview.edublogs.org/
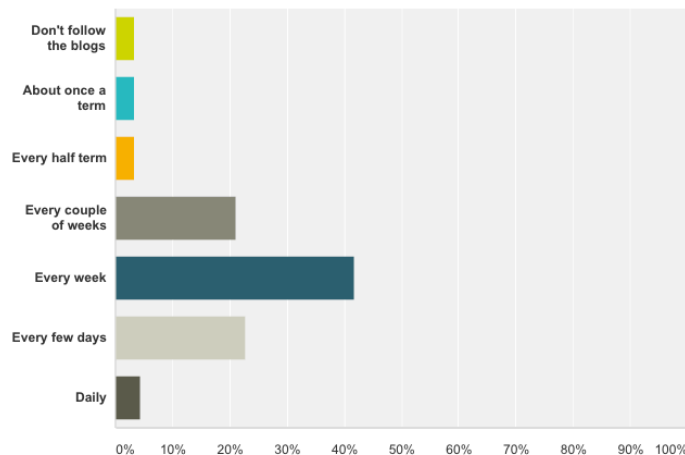
If the blogs aren't password protected, is it safe?

Nothing is 100% safe, but we don't name the children with a photograph (even to the extent, now, of taking care when a child is photographed holding a certificate). If we ever make an error with this, e.g. posting a photo that allows a name to be associated with it, please let us know and we will remove it. There are a few children for whom we don't have publishing permission and this is never deliberately flouted. We have the technology to blur out faces if needs be (where we don't have permission to publish a child's photo or there are child protection reasons for not including a child on a group photo). The children receive age-appropriate e-safety training throughout school.

Having said all that, by the time they leave primary school, our children will be thinking about using social media themselves. We need to be showing them that you can put things on the internet in ways that don't pose a risk to your safety and in a way that builds a positive image of yourself/product/place to the wider world. E-safety is promoted and directly taught across school.

How often do you look at your child's class blog?

Answered: 180   Skipped: 7

About 10% of respondents had some e-safety concerns. If you still have individual concerns about this, please speak to your class teacher, Mr Harris or Mrs Fisher.

Can we forward postings?

Yes. Just copy the posting's address (on the top bar). We would like parents to forward things on, especially to extended family, as this increases the children's audience.

Comments: I'm not the best at putting words on paper and spelling. Could there be a like button (like Facebook)?

This is a good suggestion and we are now trialing this on a number of blogs and the main school website. Other parents had also suggested that they couldn't think of anything original to say – a like button could be another way of expressing positive feedback.

I sometimes get a message after commenting to say it needs to be checked or is in spam.

Don't worry about this. All comments are checked before appearing. It is another layer of e-safety. Teachers should be checking their 'spam' comments folder too. This has been a problem with this in Foundation Stage and Y4 recently but hopefully this will improve. There may be a delay in your comment appearing but it does usually get through.

Why don't the children write more of the blog material?

This is usually just a time issue and access to laptops/tablets. Some of our oldest pupils do have their own log-ins and can post more directly.

I would probably look more often if prompted - I can forget it is there!

Each blog posting by a teacher should prompt an email to the parents of children in the class. If you are not getting these email prompts, please contact either office or email Mr Harris directly:
peter.harris@farsleyfarfield.org.uk