



Bacon Garth Primary School
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Headteacher: Dave Clark

Tuesday 12th June 2012

Dear Parents

Many thanks for taking the time to complete the recent questionnaire I sent to you. I thought that you may be interested to know the results of the survey which I am sending to you in this letter.

I have included the response for each question in the table below as well as some of the comments/questions made by parents. I have included an answer should it be a question raised, or a statement indicating what the school will be doing in response if it was a suggestion or concern.

I hope that you find the information useful, informative and interesting.

Regards

Dave Clark
Headteacher

Parental Survey Analysis - May/June 2012	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
My child likes coming to school	39	25		
Teaching is good and helps the children make progress	48	12		
The school is led, managed and organised well by the Head and Senior staff	49	13		
The School encourages my child to become mature and independent	43	20		
The school listens to parents and takes account of their views, suggestions and concerns	35	27	1	
Children are respected and given positive praise for their efforts	48	15		
Staff expect my child to work hard and do his or her best	44	17		
Teachers and adults at Bacon Garth treat my child with respect, kindness and fairness	47	17		
There is a good range of activities in the curriculum that my child finds interesting and enjoyable	42	20	1	
I feel comfortable about approaching the school with a question, problem or complaint	44	19	1	

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
I am kept well informed about how my child is getting on	32	28	2	
I like the style of the annual school report	31	20		
I receive enough information about the school through newsletters, the website and letters home	40	21		
I receive enough information from the school about how I can help my child at home	22	30	8	
The school regularly invites parents into school (<i>e.g. Class assemblies, parents evenings, special mentions assemblies, concerts, open evenings etc</i>)	36	26	1	
My child is not bullied at school.	29	29	1	
The school deals effectively if my child is bullied	25	18	1	
The school organises a good range of additional activities for the children	37	22		
Children at the school generally behave well.	21	25		
The school has a positive reputation within the community	36	11		
The refurbishment programme (<i>e.g. all classrooms, cloakrooms etc</i>) throughout the school has made it a better school for my child to attend	32	6		
The building programme has improved the school	30	8		
The school organises enough activities (e.g. trips/visits out /visitors in) which make my child's learning enjoyable	31	14	1	
The school organises enough after school clubs	22	20	1	
The Headteacher, and other staff, are available on the playground regularly to speak to parents informally	33	10	1	
The school organises sufficient activities to help the children develop a sense of belonging to the community (<i>e.g. hospital carol singing, harvest gifts etc</i>)	29	15		
When my child has difficulties with their work, the school is effective in sorting them out	25	17		
The atmosphere of the school is friendly and happy	33	16		
The school organises a range of activities to help my child understand the importance of keeping themselves safe (<i>e.g. Fire Safety, First Aid, Water Safety, Cycling Proficiency etc</i>)	27	20		
The school encourages my child to be healthy and take regular exercise (<i>e.g. through Box 2B Fit days, skipping workshop days, sports clubs, sporting activities, Healthy School Days etc</i>)	35	10		
The school has taken adequate steps to ensure my child is safe and secure at school (<i>e.g. security doors, locked gates, fencing etc</i>)	29	16		
My child receives a suitable amount of homework	24	15	1	
The school meals have improved and are good value for money	22	15	12	
My child was helped to settle into school when they first started	35	11		

Below is a selection of the comments made by parents when we asked about anything that you do not feel is working well or could be improved.

- › I would like to receive more information from the school about how I can help my child at home

We will be working over the next term to produce more information to send home to parents on how they can help their child at home.

- › I feel that there is not enough information sent to parents about treating Head Lice. If parents were made aware that free treatment can be obtained through the minor ailments scheme through the local chemists maybe this would decrease the number of times children are re-infested.

We have sent home information on this previously, and it is worth parents being aware that local pharmacies will be able to give advice and support for the free treatment of head lice.

- › I am concerned that there is no longer an out of school club. This will seriously impact on our family and our future work plans.

It was a great shame when the after school club provider decided to withdraw from its contract with us to provide after school care. This was due to financial and staffing reasons. We have looked into a range of alternative options on how to provide after school provision, but sadly none have been viable.

- › Sometimes we seem to receive letters late. Could they be sent out sooner?

We do try to send letters out in time, although there are occasions when letters come out at short notice. We also find that some children have left letters in book bags, cloakrooms or drawers. We will continue to try to ensure letters are sent out in time and also now that we have the website, endeavour to put an increasing amount of information and letters online for parents to access.

- › If my child is not at school through sickness or only attends certain days [as not full time] letters are not always sent home and we rely on word of mouth. Could a text service be introduced?

A few years ago we trialled a text service and this was unsuccessful. However, we are constantly reviewing communication systems and a more appropriate text service may well be available to us during the coming year. In the meantime, we will endeavour to continue to make sure children who are part time or who are absent from school receive letters on their return.

- › I'm disappointed that the no-crisps rule in packed lunches is not enforced. It is difficult to tell your child that they can't have crisps if lots of other children are eating them.

Although we encourage packed lunches to be healthy, what children eat in a packed lunch is down to parental choice. We don't allow the children to have fizzy drinks, but there is no restriction or ban on crisps.

- › You've recently felt it necessary to ask parents not to bring their dogs to school because some children are scared. I totally understand this, however, it would be nice if you could educate them not to approach dogs they do not know and look at ways of stopping children being afraid of animals. Too many people go through life being afraid of certain animals due to an incident or suggestion when they are young.
- › Parking by most parents before and after school is appalling. Parents are obviously not listening to your written requests and I feel more needs to be done. I find it really annoying and also very unsafe for my son to be crossing to go to school. The problem is just getting worse! Tougher actions should be brought forward for careless and illegal parking. More people should start walking and stop being plain lazy!

Over the last seven years, the school has doubled in size and this has had a considerable impact on the numbers of cars around the school. We are currently looking into the feasibility of creating a park and stride scheme and a walk/scoot to school scheme to try and alleviate some of the parking issues around school. We have also created a cycle/scoot park to encourage bike use. We would always encourage parents, where possible, to walk to school with their children or park further away from the school if they can.

We will also continue working with the local PCSO team to support us in dealing with traffic issues.

- › It would be great to have something in place to encourage online safety for children and parents. Children are becoming more internet savvy at an early age, and knowing where to get advice from, about cyber-bullying and support would be a good idea.

We do hold awareness sessions for the children about online safety as part of our PSHCE and ICT curriculum lessons. In addition, we have policies that deal with online safety, use of the internet and cyber bullying. The staff have received training to help them educate the children about the above issue. We are currently reviewing the ICT curriculum and 'Online Safety' will be incorporated into this.

We also have plans in September to invite parents along to an online safety awareness evening with a national expert on the issue -once we've managed to book him as he is in big demand!

- › Can anything be done about the burnt bush outside the school fence? Could the council remove it? It spoils all the hard work you've done to improve the look of the school.

I will speak to our Grounds Maintenance contractor to see what can be done about the burnt bush.

Finally, thank you for some fantastic comments about the work of the school. It is always great to hear the positives as well as ways in which we can improve. Although there were too many to include all of them, I have listed a selection of your comments below.

☺ If my children are happy then I'm happy! They always love coming to a school that's friendly and welcoming.

☺ Very happy with the school and the standard of teaching to date. I have no complaints. My child has made excellent progress and I couldn't ask for more than that!

- ☺ The school always has something going on and this makes children more interested.
- ☺ I'm always amazed with the number of clubs, out of school visits and events during school time that the school organises. Thank you!
- ☺ Class assemblies are always excellent.
- ☺ The new website is really good and a useful source of information for parents.
- ☺ I feel all the staff are very friendly and helpful and everyone is very approachable. I find it very positive that the staff and headmaster know all the children's names and are always available to talk to if needed.
- ☺ The atmosphere is happy and welcoming and the school has an excellent reputation. My son likes to come to school and appears to be progressing really well.
- ☺ We see you all as positive role models. Your continued commitment and passion shines through and it is demonstrated by our children's enthusiasm for the school and school life. Along with their progress, this is warming to see as a parent.
- ☺ I think the special mention assemblies are a lovely idea, and my 4 year old still talks about it. It is a lovely memory that she will take away with her.
- ☺ I like that Mr Clark is high Profile and not hidden away in the office all the time! As well as the nice friendly atmosphere there is, I like it that you're always trying to improve and as a school you don't have a "that will do attitude"
- ☺ I'm glad the FS2 children go in on their own in a morning, making them more independent. With less parents in the building it makes the FSU less chaotic.
- ☺ I am so happy that my child is fortunate to attend this school and I hope to see his younger sister joining him in 2013. I am happy with every aspect of the school and the proof of how well the school is performing was in the performance tables. I would like to add a big well done to everyone at Bacon Garth School!
- ☺ I think the cashless school meals idea is very good! As a parent I can/will be able to monitor payment more easily as I found money in envelopes either didn't get handed in on time or went missing!
- ☺ Thank you to all the hardworking staff for creating a lovely environment and supporting my child to reach her potential. Although academic achievement is important, the 'whole' child is important.
- ☺ The school is a real credit to everyone who attends or works there. The first remark I get when I say my child attends Bacon Garth is "the headmaster knows all the children's names." A small gesture, but one that makes each child feel noticed and makes the school feel welcoming.