



Bacon Garth Primary School
The Garth
Cottingham
East Riding of Yorkshire
HU16 5BP



Tel: (01482) 849521

Email: office@bacongarth.co.uk

Fax: (01482) 846777

Headteacher: Dave Clark

Friday 28th November 2014

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 number of responses for each question in the table below. I have also responded to parents questions/comments overleaf. I haven't been able to include all of your comments, but the ones included give a flavour of parental views.

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

Regards

Dave Clark
Headteacher

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
My child likes coming to school	44	12		
Teaching is good and helps the children make progress	46	10		
The school is led, managed and organised well by the Head and Senior staff	43	13		
The School encourages my child to become mature and independent	37	19		
The school listens to parents and takes account of their views, suggestions and concerns	26	28	2	
Children are respected and given positive praise for their efforts	43	13		
Staff expect my child to work hard and do his or her best	41	14		
Teachers and adults at Bacon Garth treat my child with respect, kindness and fairness	40	16		
There is a good range of activities in the curriculum that my child finds interesting and enjoyable	40	14	2	
I feel comfortable about approaching the school with a question, problem or complaint	40	14	2	
I am kept well informed about how my child is getting on	21	30	5	
I like the style of the annual school report	31	20		

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
I receive enough information about the school through newsletters, the website and letters home	37	16	3	
I receive enough information from the school about how I can help my child at home	19	25	11	1
The school regularly invites parents into school (e.g. Class assemblies, parents evenings, special mentions assemblies, concerts, open evenings etc)	37	18	1	
My child is not bullied at school.	33	22	1	
The school deals effectively if my child is bullied	17	20	1	
The school organises a good range of additional activities for the children	42	14		
Children at the school generally behave well.	24	32		
The school has a positive reputation within the community	41	15		
The refurbishment programme throughout the school has made it a better school for my child to attend	38	14		
The building programme (e.g. ICT Suite, Cloakrooms) has improved the school and is a good place for my child to attend	39	13		
The school organises enough activities (e.g. trips/visits out /visitors in) which make my child's learning enjoyable	41	15		
The school organises enough after school clubs	26	26	4	
The Headteacher, and other staff, are available on the playground regularly to speak to parents informally	47	7	2	
The school organises sufficient activities to help the children develop a sense of belonging to the community (e.g. hospital carol singing, harvest gifts etc)	32	22	2	
When my child has difficulties with their work, the school is effective in sorting them out	29	27		
The atmosphere of the school is friendly and happy	50	5	1	
The school organises a range of activities to help my child understand the importance of keeping themselves safe	29	27		
The school encourages my child to be healthy and take regular exercise (e.g. through Box 2B Fit days, skipping workshop days, sports clubs, sporting activities, Healthy School Days etc)	36	19	1	
The school has taken adequate steps to ensure my child is safe and secure at school	42	14		
My child receives a suitable amount of homework	28	24	4	
The school meals have improved and offer good value for money	30	19	1	
My child was helped to settle into school when they first started	40	16		

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 find out more about teaching methods used particularly for numeracy and literacy, so I can better support them at home. Maybe informal workshops could be held, or a booklet explaining the methods used, could be given to those interested parents?



A number of comments were received about parents wanting to find out more about how their child is doing at school and how they can help them more at home. Over the next year, we will endeavour to produce more information booklets on how to help your child at home and we will look into holding more regular information evenings for parents.

- We would like interim feedback in between parents evenings so I can help my child more at home in the areas that need development.



In addition to the termly parent consultation evenings and the annual school report, I will be looking at whether there is a way we can provide further interim feedback on progress for parents on how your child is getting on.

- Please consider breaking up the playtime of the main school (eg years 1-3 & years 4-6) as I feel there aren't enough eyes to watch them all at the same time.

Playtime procedures are reviewed regularly and I often consider whether we should 'split' playtimes. However, if we split playtimes there would be fewer staff available to carry out playground duties (as half of the classes would still be in lessons) so consequently the ratios of staff to children on the playground would remain the same. I will continue to monitor playground procedures and change them if appropriate.

- After my son broke his arm playing on the damp wooden stepping stones in the playground I think it would be a good idea to remove any such things to prevent it happening in the future to any other children

We never want children to injure themselves at school, but unfortunately children do from time to time. We carry out regular health and safety checks and risk assessments on all equipment. Children tell us that they like having equipment to play on and as a school we have to find a balance between children having equipment to use and removing all risk of any injury. We will continue to keep the use of adventure playground equipment under review.

- I have never been made aware of a PTA committee, or how to become a member. Cancelling the Summer Fair made it feel as if the school was not as much part of the community as before. More events should take place in the evening hours so that parents who work can attend e.g. Family nights



I will ask the Friends of Bacon Garth to write to parents to give information on how other parents can become involved in supporting the school. With more parents involved in the work of the Friends Association, maybe we can put on additional events and evening activities.

We were disappointed to cancel the Summer Fair but we hope to run both the Christmas and Summer Fairs this year.

- I am a little concerned about the class numbers and worry if this could affect my child's learning.

When I first came to Bacon Garth, the school was due to close and numbers had fallen to around 114 pupils. Since that time, we have grown to a school roll of 196 pupils + 78 Foundation Stage 1 pupils. The school is now at full capacity so class sizes are now at their maximum and should not grow any more. Class sizes at Bacon Garth are on average 27. (Some classes have a few more children than this due to the Local Authority placing children with us above our admission number of 27) In these classes, we have tended to increase the amount of Teaching Assistant support.

The activities which foster a sense of belonging to the community tend to involve the older children – it would be nice to involve the younger children in these kinds of things. It would be good if sometimes the school ran events for parents to attend in the evenings rather than daytime – it can be difficult to get out of work sometimes.

- Harvest Festival – what is the point in giving the food back to the very people who gave it in the first place? We assumed it would go to a soup kitchen/foodbank/homeless shelter, instead we arrive home to find it on our doorstep and our neighbour's (who also send their children to Bacon Garth). What does that teach our children? Please make this a meaningful opportunity to reach out to the wider community/discuss difficult issues and actually help people who need it. What a wasted opportunity to do something meaningful.



We use our Harvest Celebration and assembly to talk with the children about sharing and helping other people less fortunate and how we can help others.

Most of the tins of food sent in for Harvest Festival were indeed given to the local food bank in Cottingham. The rest of the food donated was bagged up as harvest gifts and distributed amongst local residents, many of whom are elderly folks who were delighted that the Year 6 had visited them, had a chat with them and had given them a gift. We received many lovely thank you cards appreciating this activity, noting that it was good that school did this. I appreciate that sometimes, we leave a gift at a house that may be a parent or someone who does not want a gift, but it is difficult to manage this process without making deliveries to specific houses. We tried one year to only deliver to specific houses but this became far too complex. I believe that the way in which we do harvest is meaningful, but will look again at our system for next year.

- As a parent I would like to have been given more information on the issues covered by the recent sex education our son has received.

I will ensure that more information on Sex and Relationships Education is provided for parents.

- There are not enough after school activities such as sports/craft/drama



This year, we have utilised our Sports Premium Funding to arrange for an additional 18 after school clubs. These are in addition to the school led clubs such as recorder, knitting, gardening, chess and football. However, we feel that we can try and provide further opportunities for the children and I will look into how we can provide more clubs throughout the year, particularly for activities such as art, craft, athletics, drama and cooking.

- Ensuring the website photos are up dated regularly so people who miss events can see them.



As a result of the survey, we have already changed our procedures for updating information and photographs on the website. Parents should notice that photos are uploaded more frequently from now on.

- I feel the swimming shouldn't have been put on hold as it is important for children to learn to swim.



The school has arranged and paid for swimming lessons for Class 2 as an extra new activity for this year. We will be one of only a few schools that provide swimming lessons for Year 2 children in addition to the Year 3 children. Unfortunately, the planned lessons were postponed due to the availability of the pool and coaches, but please be reassured that they will be taking place in the spring term.

- I have found the reading books have failed to engage my daughter and feel to encourage a love of reading these need to be improved.

We regularly review our reading scheme and Mrs Fieldhouse and I will look again at the range and content of our reading scheme during the coming year.



- The school is great at bringing below average work up to an average standard, and I applaud it for that. However, not enough attention is paid to a child who excels or is above average. There should be special 'advanced' programmes as well as 'disadvantaged' ones

Over the last year, a number of intervention groups have taken place for children who excel at certain subject areas. For example, children in Year 5 and 6 have additional maths groups should they be exceptionally gifted and need additional challenge. We have also purchased additional resources to support children who require additional challenge.

We will look this year at how we can extend support and challenge to those children who are working at a higher level in specific subject areas in all year groups.

- The only negative is the cost of the school dinners, but I think that's more to do with the council than the school.



The Local Authority sets a recommended price for school meals, but Bacon Garth has managed to keep the price we charge parents significantly lower than this. The average meal in the Local Authority is around £1.90, so at £1.65 Bacon Garth's meal cost does represent good value for money.

- Communication is sometimes reliant on other parents letting us know things. Making the FS1 into FS2 meeting a child-free event is a prime example of this. It leaves us unclear about things which are then only clarified if we ask - not as a matter of routine.

We try to provide adequate information through letters and newsletters. Our new text service and website have helped us to improve this communication further. We have recently installed additional noticeboards outside the FSU and main school. We are always seeking new and improved ways of communicating with parents and would welcome any feedback you can provide to us about how we can do this even more effectively.

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.



- 😊 It's just outstanding to have in the 21st century a good school which is Bacon Garth... it's very well organised and it's all down to all of the staff in all areas. Cheers!
- 😊 I am really pleased with the way the school educates my child. They enjoy every minute of school life.
- 😊 I love the class assemblies and the recognition the kids receive as well as all the positive reinforcement.
- 😊 All of the staff are friendly & welcoming which creates a good atmosphere. I like the fact that there is always a member of staff on the door of FS1 to welcome the children.
- 😊 Staff are very welcoming- there is always lots of staff around when dropping off and picking up and we are able to speak to them if needed.
- 😊 To see and be able to talk to Mr Clark in the playground before and after school is really refreshing and good to see. Talking to others with children in other schools, this just does not happen very often with a head teacher in other schools!

- 😊 I love the positive, friendly atmosphere. I think the school has some outstanding teachers who are able to motivate and engage children. I like the use of praise and encouragement as a method of positive discipline. School plays and assemblies are of a very high standard. Displays and classrooms are very welcoming.
- 😊 The staff are brilliant, friendly and caring. When my daughter needed help she was given that help swiftly and she greatly improved.
- 😊 I believe the school is doing its best for my child. Where issues have arisen, staff members have reacted quickly to resolve the issue. I am happy that my child enjoys attending the school.
- 😊 Ever since my eldest started at Bacon Garth I have always been very happy with the school. I feel my children are being well looked after when they are in school and are receiving the best possible education and I couldn't ask for more than that!
- 😊 I love the colourful classrooms!
- 😊 I like the topics the children do and the clubs that are provided for the children.
- 😊 The staff and school are very friendly. Really like the approachable attitude of the head and how he supported my need as a parent of a child with a disability.
- 😊 It's brilliant that Mr Clark is so visible on the playground most days, and so approachable and friendly. Class teachers are enthusiastic, engaging and good at their job - we're very impressed with the progress our daughter is making, and by all the new knowledge she comes home and shares with us from her topic work.
- 😊 Very supportive, approachable and very hardworking staff. Our son has made good progress and has been very happy at Bacon Garth.
- 😊 The enthusiasm displayed by the teachers and pupils every day is great. My son is always happy to go to school and is keen to tell me about his day when I pick him up. This creates a great learning environment.
- 😊 My child attends nursery and the staff are brilliant!! My child loves school!
- 😊 I love the attitude of all the staff and believe that the school is led well by the excellent head teacher.
- 😊 Bacon Garth is so well organised and has friendly teachers, fabulous activities for students including current events e.g. remembrance day etc.
- 😊 Great school, great staff, very happy with the whole school and its values - my child is very happy to come to school.
- 😊 My daughter started pre-school in September and was upset for a few weeks but the teachers were brilliant and even rang me to reassure me she was ok. She enjoys coming to school now. Fantastic communication.
- 😊 Love the text service which keeps parents informed and reminded. Great school, great staff!
- 😊 My child particularly enjoys the wide range of various topics throughout the year. It also seems like learning is made to be enjoyable and each child is always encouraged to do their best.
- 😊 Very pleased with my son's development since starting Bacon Garth and I think it's a wonderful school. Thanks to everyone at Bacon Garth!
- 😊 I am really happy with the school! It's always a pleasure to come and watch school plays - thumbs up!
- 😊 I am pleased with the increase in after school activities and it would be great to see these to continue and grow. Eg. more opportunity to get involved in sports such as athletics, more provision for children to learn music.