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Headteacher: Dave Clark

Parent Survey -July 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

Many thanks for taking the time to complete the recent questionnaire I sent to you. I thought 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 parent questions/comments overleaf, and where possible have suggested where we can make changes in response to comments made.

I haven't been able to include all of the comments made, but the ones included give a flavour of parental views expressed. Please be assured that your views are important to us and that I will take them into account.

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



Dave Clark
Headteacher

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
My child likes coming to school	57	16	1	
Teaching is good and helps the children make progress	62	12		
The school is led, managed and organised well by the Head and Senior staff	63	10	1	
The School encourages my child to become mature and independent	54	19	1	
The school listens to parents and takes account of their views, suggestions and concerns	43	27	3	1
Children are respected and given positive praise for their efforts	54	19	1	
The school has high expectations for my child	56	18		
Teachers and adults at Bacon Garth treat my child with respect, kindness and fairness	52	21	1	
There is a good range of activities in the curriculum that my child finds interesting and enjoyable	58	15	1	
I feel comfortable about approaching the school with a question, problem or complaint	55	16	3	
I am kept well informed about how my child is getting on	41	26	5	2

I like the style of the annual school report	52	19		1
I receive enough information about the school through newsletters, the website, text messages and letters home	57	16	1	
I receive enough information from the school about how I can help my child at home	41	31	2	
The school regularly invites parents into school (e.g. Class assemblies, parents evenings, award assemblies, nativity plays concerts, open evenings, sports days, dance, themed days etc.)	51	23		
My child is not bullied at school	46	24	3	1
The school has acted swiftly and effectively if my child has experienced bullying	43	20	3	1
The school organises a good range of additional activities for the children	54	19	1	
Children at the school generally behave well	41	32	1	
The school has a positive reputation within the community	56	18		
The school organises enough activities (e.g. trips/visits out /visitors in) which make my child's learning enjoyable	55	18	1	
The school organises enough after school clubs	46	24	4	
The Headteacher, and other staff, are available on the playground regularly to speak to parents informally	62	10	1	1
The school organises sufficient activities to help the children develop a sense of belonging to the community	42	27	4	
When my child has difficulties with their work, the school is effective in sorting them out	42	25	4	1
The atmosphere of the school is friendly and happy	57	17		
The school organises a range of activities to help my child understand the importance of keeping themselves safe (e.g. Fire Safety, First Aid, Water Safety, Cycling Proficiency etc)	46	26		
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)	49	23		
The school has taken adequate steps to ensure my child is safe and secure at school (e.g. security doors, locked gates, fencing etc)	61	10	3	
My child receives a suitable amount of homework	42	21	4	
The school meals offer good value for money	48	21	1	1
My child was helped to settle into school when they first started	60	13	1	
I am aware of the role of the Governors in school	39	29	5	1
The school site, buildings and classrooms are well maintained and provide a pleasant environment for my child to come to school	62	12		
Transition arrangements for children moving from Foundation to Year 1 are effective in supporting my child with the move (* appropriate to current FS /Y1)	39	8		

Below is a selection of comments made by parents when we asked about anything that you do not feel is working well or could be improved. I have also included a response to each comment. Not all comments could be included here, but please be aware that all your comments/suggestions will be used to inform the development of school life.

- As a parent who provides the correct uniform, it is frustrating to see a blatant disregard for the uniform policy from some children/parents.
- A more disciplined approach to the school uniform rules would be welcome as some pupils consistently wear non-uniform such as trainers, pumps, leggings, tops and jewellery.
- I am embarrassed by the length of some of the older girls' skirts. I find it unnecessary and not fair to other pupils and staff. I am a parent of a girl, and it really isn't difficult to find a longer skirt to buy.

I agree with the many parents who commented on the issue of uniform. Indeed, I have already spoken to a number of parents about the length of skirts that some children are wearing. I will write to parents this term to reinforce the school uniform policy and to remind them about the need for appropriate and suitable clothing to be worn in school.



We promote a smoke free environment for our children.

Please do not smoke near the school gates.

- A 'No Smoking' sign by the school gate would be much appreciated. It seems wrong that children have to walk through a cloud of smoke to get in/out of school.

I will certainly look into installing 'No Smoking' signs at the front of the school and will also remind parents in my next newsletter not to smoke at the gates. I will also make an effort to make more visits to the gate at the front of school at the start and end of the day.

- Can you put on evening performances of assemblies, plays and dances so that working parents can attend?

Although it would be lovely to hold evening performances of dance shows and assemblies, asking children, particularly the youngest ones, to come back to school for 6pm or 6.30pm is problematic. Not only would many of the young ones be shattered, but it is very difficult trying to get a full class back after school when the children have so many other commitments after school.

We used to hold evening performances of the Key Stage 1 Christmas play, but found that many of the children could not attend. We do, however, still hold an evening performance of the Year 6 play.

We now record most of our performances so that parents who are not able to attend through the day can watch at home. I realise that this isn't quite the same as watching live, but is still a good way to watch your child perform.

- Parking is still a massive problem. Children are still dropped off by parents on the yellow Zig-Zags.



*I have been in touch with the Local Authority about the Zig-Zags. They are currently going through an official process to make the parking restrictions at the front of school **legally enforceable**. Once this is in place, offenders will be liable to prosecution. The Local Authority expects this process to be completed by April 2019. At this point, they assure me that the road markings will also be re-painted. In the meantime, I will make a more conscious effort to visit the front of the school to check that the Zig-Zags are being used appropriately. I would remind parents that the Zig-Zags are there for the safety of the children and should not be used for parking and dropping off.*



- I would like it if newsletters and copies of other information could be sent to parents via e-mail. Parents could then 'opt-out' of paper copies. It would increase the chance of the information getting to the right person in a timely manner...as well as reducing school printing costs.

We trialled an e-mail system a number of years ago and, to be honest, it wasn't particularly successful. However, it may be an appropriate time to look into this again. I will talk with our School Business Manager and look at the options for providing an e-mail service.

- Could there be a teacher near the gate at the end of the day. I do find that the older children are sprinting out when parents are still coming in entering the main entrance.

I used to position myself at the front gate at the end of the school day, but it is fair to say that I now tend to be at the smaller gate near the school office. I will endeavour to revert to standing at the front gate more frequently - which will also help with monitoring parking and smoking too!!

- We would love to have a breakfast club or after school club.

We have previously contracted two companies to provide before and after school clubs. However, on both occasions, the providers have pulled out of the contract due to lack of numbers. We do keep this issue under review, however, and if we found an option that was financially and organisationally viable, we would look again at whether we could provide out of hours child care.



- I don't like the text system. At first, I received texts from one number, so I knew that they were all from the school, but now I get them from different numbers. Nothing is central and messages can be easily missed.

Unfortunately, our text service provider has changed the system and texts now go from different numbers. This change is due to the sheer volume of texts that we send and the need to provide additional capacity within the system. We do try and start each text message with 'BACON GARTH'. Although I don't think there is a solution to this issue, I will certainly make further enquires with our service provider.

- I would like to see the school participating in the 'Daily Mile Challenge'

The children on the school council have already discussed the possibility of taking part in this challenge. It is on their agenda for the coming term - so watch this space!

- As a parent I would benefit from having a better understanding of teaching methods so that I can help my child at home without using a completely different method that he has learnt at school.
- I found the phonics screening meeting helpful and informative. Something like this for maths would be good!

The information sessions on phonics and reading in FS2 and Year 1 and 2 have been useful, and we will look at holding more sessions like this for different aspects of your child's education.

One common request from parents is that they would like to know how we teach their child in maths at school so that they can use the same methods at home. This is particularly the case when it comes to the way in which we teach addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. I will look at holding a Maths evening for parents, as well as producing a summary document of the methods we use to teach maths.

In addition, we have plans during the coming term to publish explanation video clips on the school website showing children working in maths using the school taught method. I will let parents know once these are available.

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The playground can be a rowdy/noisy place and there have been several situations where balls have hit other children/parents/prams. I think ball games and general messing about/playing should not be allowed before and after school.

The playground is indeed busy and hectic before and after school and it is for this reason that the rule is that children should not play games, use footballs or go on the adventure playground. Instead, they can take the opportunity to chat with their friends calmly for the few minutes before the bell rings. I must seem like the 'mean Headteacher' for not allowing children to play at this time- but it does help to keep the playground calm in a morning. I would also appreciate the help of parents in reinforcing and supporting the playground rules with their children.

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, I have listed a selection of your comments below.



- 😊 We really like the number of times per year that parents are invited in for performances or awards assemblies. It is good that the children are rewarded for their efforts and can show what they have learnt.
- 😊 I enjoy receiving regular newsletters and photographs of class activities. You reward pupils with treats for good behaviour and meeting targets.
- 😊 All of my three children have left Bacon Garth with confidence, enthusiasm and have achieved high standards in their education. An outstanding school and many thanks to you all!
- 😊 The atmosphere at the school is great - could not be happier with Bacon Garth or the teachers.
- 😊 Love Bacon Garth - keep up the good work!

- 😊 Out of school theatre trips and educational visits provide good times for pupils to experience.
- 😊 I am very happy with how my children are taught and looked after. I would strongly recommend anyone to this school.
- 😊 Very nice community feel to the school and there is always a warm welcome every day.
- 😊 Classroom environments are bright and welcoming!
- 😊 Thank you to the whole staff team - a lovely school to send my child to!
- 😊 I really liked the way the school has helped and prepared both children and parents for the move from FS2 to Year 1. After speaking to parents with children at other schools, this is not what happens everywhere - so thank you!
- 😊 All the staff are approachable and happy to discuss queries and concerns.
- 😊 The school is very good at recognising achievement of the children in and out of school.
- 😊 Bacon Garth is a wonderful school!
- 😊 My daughter really enjoys coming to school and has settled into a nice routine and especially likes the after school clubs. The school is a warm and friendly environment and all of the staff are very approachable and easy to talk to.
- 😊 I have really liked the opportunities that the parents have had to come into school with their children e.g. Pirate Day and Traditional Tales Day
- 😊 The fact that Mr Clark knows the names of all the children in the school is a lovely thing to see. Making the effort to say hello/goodbye makes the children feel valued.
- 😊 We couldn't be more pleased with the school and the whole staff team.
- 😊 The teachers are first class - from the Head to the rest of the team. It's clear that staff enjoy their job by their openness to being approached and willingness to engage with parents.
- 😊 School plays are conducted and produced in a manner that provides families with memories to treasure forever - thank you!
- 😊 It was really nice to receive a report for my child who is in FS1.
- 😊 Fantastic start to our daughter's education - the teachers are approachable, helpful and friendly.
- 😊 My child has excelled in the Foundation unit and the teaching has been superb!
- 😊 The school has been great for my son's confidence. I am impressed with the way that the staff have ensured he is not left out despite his condition.
- 😊 It's nice that the teachers are available before and after school. It is always nice to see Mr Clark in the playground and that he is around if we have any concerns.
- 😊 The report format was super this year and was great to see SAT results covered too!
- 😊 The FS2 trips have been the best - safe and well-organised- can't praise the FS2 staff enough!
- 😊 You should keep up the good work. I like the availability of reading and phonics books for FS1.
- 😊 The school has a real 'family' feel about it!
- 😊 I think the staff work incredibly hard and do an amazing job!

- 😊 Mr Clark's an amazing Head and puts 100% in when it comes to the children
- 😊 I'm extremely pleased with the overall cleanliness of the classrooms. The playground is always very well maintained too!
- 😊 It is great that the teachers are always available to talk to. We are also impressed by the constant presence of the Headteacher who is always visible and approachable and seems to have the respect of both pupils and staff. The school has a wonderful feel to it and a real sense of community!
- 😊 Communication regarding trips, assemblies and events is fantastic, especially the texts!
- 😊 I really valued the 'open' sessions when I could come into school to see my daughter's work and play alongside her.
- 😊 I am pleased that the school has focussed on Multiplication Tables as I feel this helps the children a lot.
- 😊 I love the fact that the school has trained young first aiders as this is a great life skill!
- 😊 The school has a brilliant 'family' atmosphere and the teachers are friendly and approachable. The displays in classrooms and corridors are always beautifully presented.
- 😊 I think the school meals are amazing and offer great value.
- 😊 Thank you, Thank you, Thank you Bacon Garth! You are a warm and friendly school.
- 😊 Thank you...for helping make FS1 parents and children feel part of the school.
- 😊 Great range of trips on offer throughout school!
- 😊 I'm always amazed with the fantastic displays in the classrooms and corridors.

Thank you for taking the time to complete the questionnaire.



Your views are important to us and we will take on board your suggestions and comments as we continue to improve and develop the school so that Bacon Garth continues to be the best it can be for all of our children.

