



SHORTSTOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Head Teacher: Mrs D Cottam

Dear Parent/Carer,

Thank you to those parents who have completed the Questionnaire. This is a way of letting us how you feel about our school and be involved with changes and improvements. We do work hard as a staff to ensure the children are happy, safe and able to learn, we can only do this with your help. The results have been analysed and the response was extremely positive. There were 148 respondents. 95% would recommend the school to others, 7 respondent said they would not recommend us. I would urge those parents to come and speak to me to try and resolve any issues which may be affecting their satisfaction in the schooling their children are receiving. We always welcome conversations and encourage you to keep coming back, if you feel situations are not resolved. If we do not know, we cannot help. Thank you to the parents who have provided additional information and comments. I hope to address these with the following comments:

1. My child is happy at this school

If your child is unhappy, please inform us immediately and together we can resolve the issues.

2. My child feels safe at this school

This is an important aspect of school life and staff work hard to support all children and deal with any worries as soon as possible. There is a worry box positioned in the KS1 heart space for children to share their concerns. We have a children's notice board with contact numbers and people in school who can help them. The children have circle time every week where issues are discussed. We encourage children to tell someone, if they are not happy. If they tell you, please tell us. If there is anything else we can do, please let us know.

A concern was raised about playground accidents and safety of the play equipment. There is always supervision during this less structured time. Children do have accidents as they engage with high energy play. Risk assessments are in place and monitored regularly by the site manager, especially following any accidents. All equipment is safety checked annually by external agencies. All accidents are reported to Bedford Borough and they would contact us if there were any concerns.

3. My child makes good progress at this school

All children are tracked every half term to ensure they are making the expected progress. Targets are set and reviewed ensuring challenge is provided for all children. Pupil progress meetings are held every half term, with the class teacher to discuss every child's progress and next steps. If there are concerns, you will be informed and intervention strategies are provided. Each class provides differentiation through 5 groups and the children will move between these depending upon their changing needs. Collaboration between home and school is vital for the overall progress of the child; this includes early bedtimes, breakfast, good attendance and behaviour. If you are concerned about your child's progress, please come and speak to the class teacher.

4. My child is well looked after at this school

147 respondents agreed, with 1 don't know. This is really positive. We feel it is important use our budget to provide support for our families by employing Mia Howlett, our family support worker, and Gina Bobbett, our inclusion manager (and assistant Head). They provide additional support for children and their families and engage external agencies to ensure all children have their needs met. Children should be encouraged to tell someone if they are upset and they will receive the care required.

5. My child is taught well at this school

We are very fortunate to have good and outstanding practitioners in school who are recognised by the Local Authority,



Bedford College, The University of Bedford, Hertfordshire, other Lower and Primary Schools. We are also a member of the Peter Pan Teaching School. Our teachers, preschool and support staff are used to provide excellent models of practice in neighbouring schools and with Higher Education students entering the teaching profession. They are a hard working team and provide the best education for our children.

One parent would like smaller class sizes in Reception. We have a statutory obligation to provide 2 classes of 60 places, with a minimum of 1 adult to 30 children. We compensate for these large numbers by using our budget to employ additional staff - making a ratio of 1 adult to 12 children.

6. My child receives appropriate homework for their age

Homework continues to be a big concern for some parents. There is no statutory expectation for homework, therefore no specific time regulations. However, we do value parent support with children's learning and have a Homework policy, which is on our website, this will provide some recommended times and further details.

We have:

Learning logs, linked to topic and whole class learning. (Further information on the website)

Reading for Pleasure books, providing variety and challenge. Children select these as often as they like.

Online differentiated reading scheme - Bug club to support Reading

On line differentiated maths scheme - RM Easy Maths for Numeracy.

Phonics words and sounds to practice

Times tables to practice.

We recognise children prefer different ways of learning and hope the variety available enables them to choose how best to learn at home. If you are not receiving homework - please speak with your child's class teacher.

Research shows worksheets and spelling lists do not improve a child's attainment (see website for further details). If you prefer this method of support, or would like your child to do homework during the holidays, there are a number of publications available from all book sellers. Parental support and enjoying learning has shown to have the biggest improvement in a child's progress and motivation.

Remember playing games, having fun, exercising, being read to, trips to the park, shops and other events are all vital to a child's development.

Y6 will have an increase in the regularity of homework, in Summer 2, to support transition into Upper school and ask for all parents to support their children's learning by returning work to school on time.

7. This school makes sure its pupils are well behaved

Some children do require more support in their behaviour management, just as others need support with reading or Maths. We are an all-inclusive school and aim to provide support for all children in any aspect of their lives. However, negative behaviour will not be accepted (see Behaviour policy on our website) and consequences are implemented and parents informed. The DfE have highlighted the responsibility of parents in supporting their child's behaviour in school (see website) if the behaviour of individuals persistently ignores the expectations, there is a risk of exclusion. There have been 8 fixed term and 1 permanent exclusion this year, linked to unacceptable behaviours.

The school funds teaching support assistants, who are well qualified, to support learning and teaching in the classrooms.

Many schools have reduced these to save money. We prioritise this spending to enable all children to have the input they need. Focus is not given to individuals to the detriment of others. Time is allocated to individuals and groups over the week to ensure progress for all.

If at any time you have a concern about the welfare of your child, please come and talk to the class teacher. All children should feel safe in school. We will deal with any issues, please keep us informed, if we do not hear from you or your child, we will assume all is okay.

There are a number of reward schemes used to celebrate children who always follow the school expectations, these include: the Hot spot, Weekly beanies, class reward systems, stickers, opportunities for visits, half term behaviour cards and badges. These children are given a variety of other experiences in and out of school to thank them for their attitude.

8. This school deals effectively with bullying

We work hard with children to differentiate between 'bullying' and incidents which can occur in school between children. Bullying is action taken by one or more children with the **deliberate and consistent** intention of hurting another child, either physically or emotionally. Please raise any concerns with the class teacher immediately. The issue will be dealt with. We will assume the situation has been resolved unless you tell us otherwise. We reinforce with the children that they must keep telling someone until the problem has been solved. Our weekly circle time and Anti Bullying focus weeks, support this learning and understanding. Our Anti-bullying policy is on our website. 25 parents stated they did not know and many added this was because their child had never had an issue and only 2 parents disagreed. This is positive as it means systems that are in place are working.

9. This school is well led and managed

The senior team in school are used throughout the authority as mentors for other professionals seeking leadership roles, providing consultation opportunities and training to others.

The management of the school is the responsibility of us all: Parents, children, staff, Governors and the local authority. If things can be improved – please let us know how.

One parent commented that management view the children as 'numbers'. As Head Teacher, I make it my priority to know all of the children, by name and their families. We are here to do the best we can for every child we support. There are statutory expectations put upon us, where we have to report percentages and numbers, this is not a choice.

10. This school responds well to any concerns I raise

We have an open door policy to encourage parents and carers to speak to us. There is a member of the Senior Leadership team on the door and gate at the beginning and end of every day. The staff in the classrooms are available on collection of the children. We employ a family support worker and one of our Assistant Heads is responsible for inclusion and emotional support. We do listen and have changed policies and procedures in school following feedback and parent discussions. There will be times when the response may not be what you want to hear, but there are statutory obligations which we must abide by, this includes the teaching of Religious Education and attendance. We take your comments seriously as you are the primary teachers and care givers of your children. No matter too small. We will feedback on concerns, should the issue require it. Many situations need sensitive handling for all parties concerned. If you have spoken with us you can assume we have dealt with it. We never brush issues aside, if the problem reoccurs, please come back.

A request for the texts, before dress up days and Mufti, to be sent out earlier. We do try to make sure these are on the half term overview, well in advance. The days are also on the Friday newsletters, the week before the event. The texts are just a last minute reminder.

11. I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress

Communication with parents continues to be high on the school priorities. We provide a text service, website, school Blog, weekly newsletter and comments in Home record books. The text service is funded by the school and is additional to normal requirements, it only allows for 1 contact number per child, please organise communication between relevant parties if information needs to be shared.

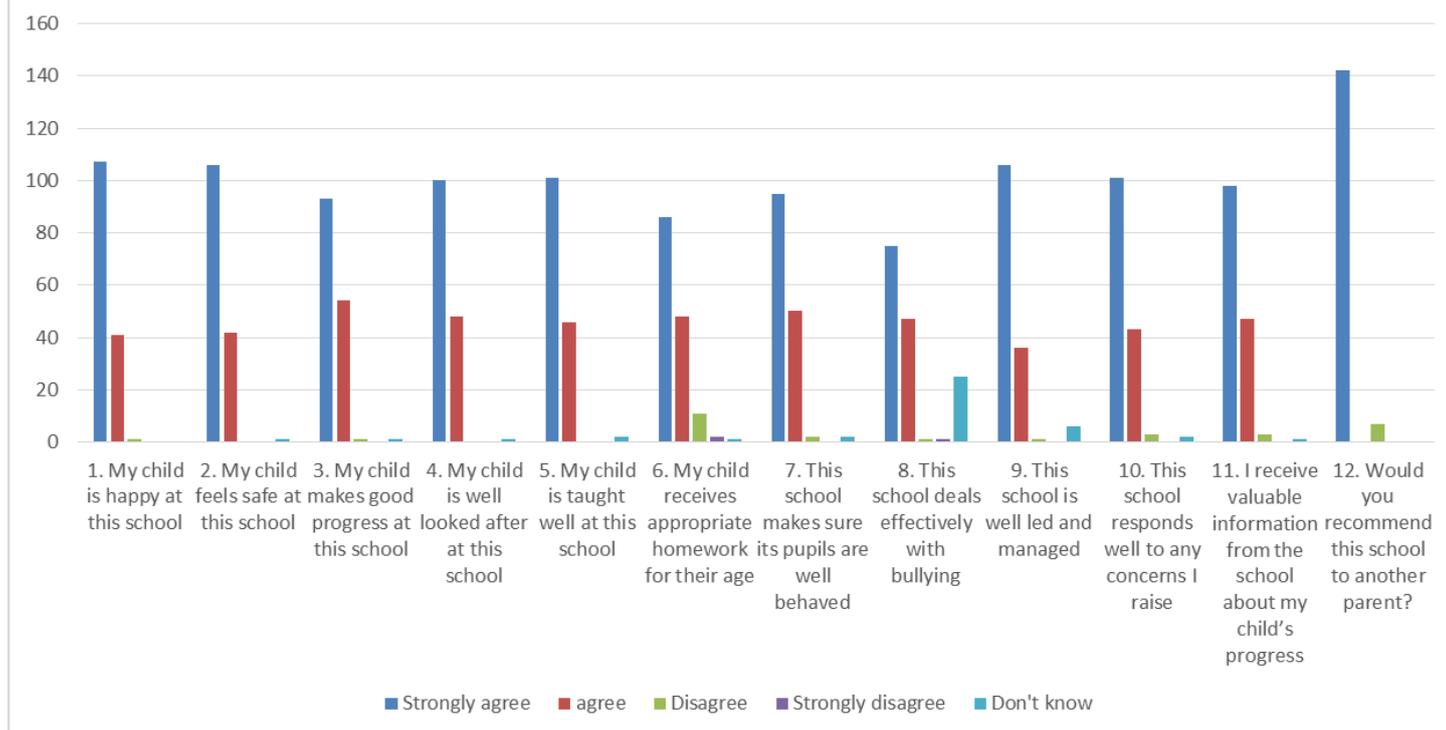
There are 3 reports through the year (Lower and Primary School expectation is one at the end of the year). There are 3 consultation meetings. There is always a member of staff on the gate/door in the morning and evening for any queries or to make an appointment. Class teachers are available in the evening and are happy to speak about any issues. Support can be offered through conversations with staff, the National Curriculum expectations are also on our website.

We are working on an assessment system linked to photographs and comments, which will allow parent share through emails. The Reception class carry this out as part of their reporting system, every term. It has only just been introduced to the rest of the school, we will ask for your emails once the staff are more confident.

I would like to acknowledge all of your comments and suggestions. I hope this has answered most of them and given you a clearer understanding of the processes in school. If you have any comments or further questions, please come and talk to us. Thank you for all of the positive responses which show your appreciation for our staff and our school. Further information is available on our website.

Denise Cottam Head Teacher

Parent Questionnaire Results 2016-2017



Parent comments

"She loves coming to school and would like to be a year 1 teacher."

"Fantastic school"

"A great school and atmosphere. Very glad the children are here."

"I think Shortstown Primary is fantastic school and has helped my child to achieve great results within his school work."

"We are grateful for the hard work and patience from the teachers. My child has been progressing well. She has received a lot of opportunities."

"Excellent progress. I am grateful for what the teachers have done to help and encourage my child."

"Thank you for providing an enriching environment"

"Brilliant school and staff. I really appreciate what the school does for my child."

"This school is amazing, all teachers are helpful and kind, all staff are respectful and no problem is too big or small to deal with."

"Teachers are always prepared to listen and take on any concerns."

"My child loves going to school, this is a reflection on the positive environment at school."

I would like to add a big thank you to everyone in our school community for your tireless effort and support. This is what makes us great.

Be Happy, Be Safe and Learn.