

April 2018

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 174 respondents. 96% would recommend the school to others, 5 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. There was a request for more trips. The cost of trips is high and it is difficult to raise the money through contributions. A coach into Bedford can cost in excess of £150, each way. This is why we organize more in-house opportunities, some of which have had to be cancelled, due to lack of funds. However, the staff are extremely creative and provide a number of engaging opportunities for the children, through their own planning.

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 supervision at lunchtime. 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

We feel it is important to 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.

A parent made comment on the cleanliness of the Reception class toilets. Parent meetings occur straight after school, the cleaning staff do not have a chance to clean at this time. I can assure you the toilets are always spotless in the mornings.

5. My child is taught well at this school

Some comments regarding the way teaching and learning is delivered included: *"Not much work written in books."*

The requirement to 'write in books' depends upon the subject and learning priority. Children learn through doing and we use 2Simple to record many aspects of their learning, some of this is shared during the creative week.

"More small groups work to improve confidence building."

The school funds teaching support assistants, who are well qualified, to support learning and teaching in the classrooms and support small group work, throughout the school. Many schools have reduced these to save money. We prioritise this spending to enable all children to have the input they need.

"More consistent teaching of Maths rather than different topics in the same week."

The teaching of all subjects is a mixture of discrete, specific focused learning, mixed with the support to use and apply knowledge and understanding in real life situation. This requires children to embed learning and apply their knowledge to solve problems and link learning.

We are very fortunate to have good and outstanding practitioners in school who are recognized by Bedford College, The University of Bedford, Hertfordshire, other Lower and Primary Schools. We are also a member of the Peter Pan Teaching School. We have staff who lead moderation for the Local authority. 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.

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. Children select these as often as they like - as praised by OFSTED

Online differentiated reading scheme - Bug club to support Reading

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

Phonics words, sounds and 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.

7. This school makes sure its pupils are well behaved

A couple of responses stated "*Naughty children get more rewards*" and "*Good children do not get rewards, this is not fair.*" 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 12 fixed term and 1 permanent exclusion this year, linked to unacceptable behaviours.

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.

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.

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

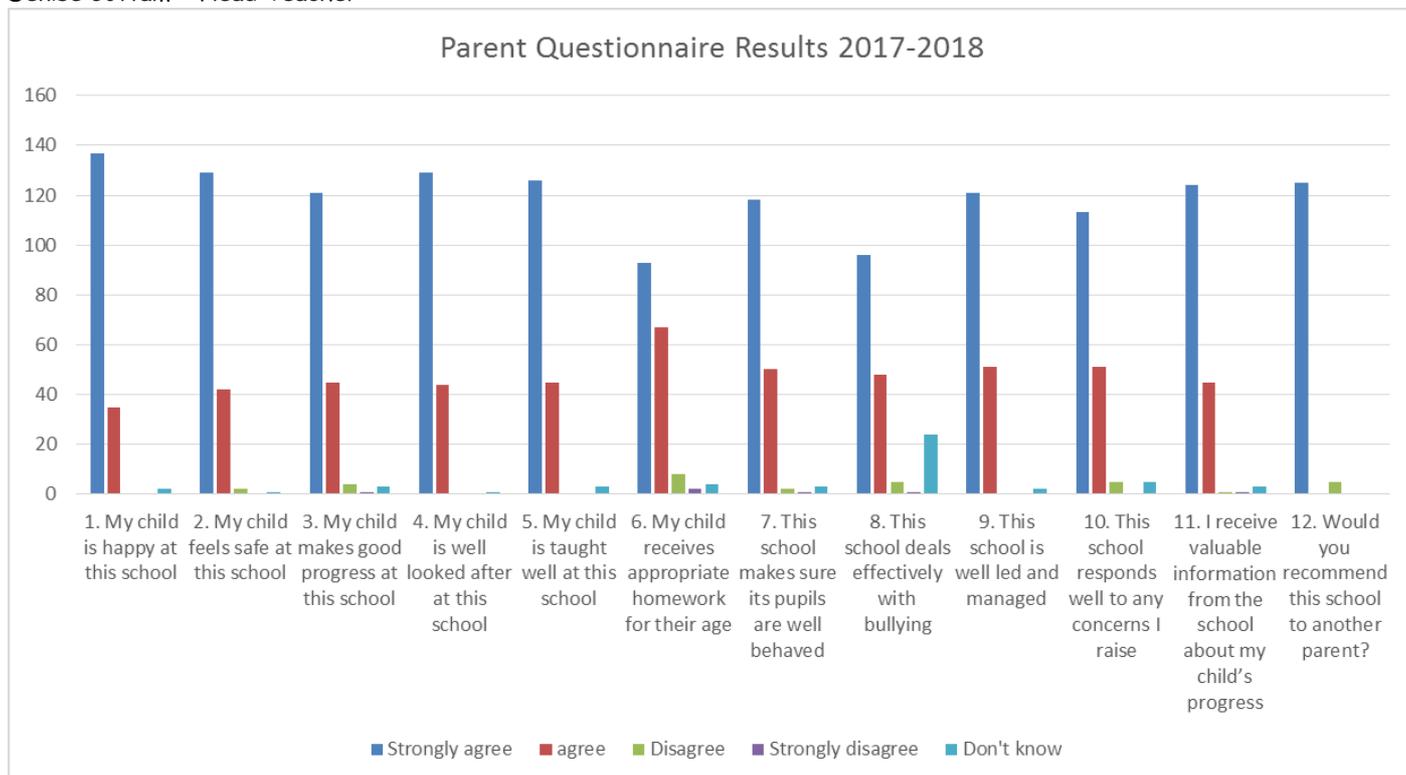
primary teachers and care givers of your children. No matter how small. We will feedback on concerns, should the issue require it. Many situations need sensitive handling for all parties concerned. If you have spoken with us you can assume we have dealt with it. We never brush issues aside, if the problem reoccurs or you have not received the feedback you feel you should, please come back.

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 twitter, weekly newsletter. 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 now have 2Simple working through the school. If your email has been given to us, you may also receive information during our creative weeks. The Reception class carry this out as part of their reporting system, every term. One parent requested the books to go home every day, unfortunately this is not possible as we need to ensure they are in school for marking and planning.

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 comments:

- "My daughter loves school, this is a testament to how supportive and well-run the school is."
- "Thank you to all teachers for their hard work and support."
- "His confidence has soared since joining Reception."
- "The school has a good relationship with parents and help them to support their children at home."
- "We are proud of the school our child goes to and I brag about it to my friends."
- "I always find the teachers very approachable and they always make time for any concerns."
- "Very supportive of general wellbeing and emotional needs."
- "I think this school is one of the best in Bedford. Brilliant teachers and staff, keep up the good work."

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.