



# Wombwell Park Street Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs C Lawson

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs L Longden

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022

Dear Parents / Carers,

## Parental Questionnaires Spring 2022

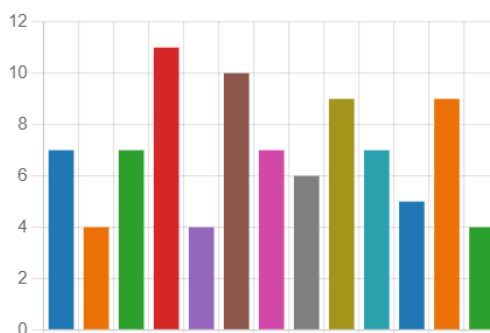
I am writing to thank the 92 parents who recently took part in our biannual questionnaire to parents. We really value parental feedback at Park Street. It helps us to make informed generalisations about what we do well as a school and of course the areas for improvement, as well as focus on individual families.

**I am sure you all know that we care deeply about the children of Park Street and we are always striving to be the best we can be for our children!**

It has certainly been no easy task working in schools over the past three academic years and this year especially has proved challenging in getting old and new routines up and running, whilst still dealing with the stark impact of COVID on our community, staff and children. Let alone managing the wellbeing of the school and wider school community. So, thank you for taking the time to help us! It is greatly appreciated.

Please find below a break down of the feedback we got, from each class:

Team CM (Morning) (Miss McGi...)	7
Team CM (Afternoon) (Miss Mc...)	4
Team CW (Miss Clementson & ...)	7
Team EO (Miss Overton)	11
Team CH (Mr Holmes)	4
Team JF (Miss Fury)	10
Team AC (Mrs Allen & Mrs Cros...)	7
Team CB (Miss Baxter)	6
Team JD (Mr Davison)	9
Team DB (Mrs Bamforth)	7
Team LF (Mrs Firth)	5
Team AF (Mr Fidment)	9
Team LL (Mrs Longden)	4



It was lovely to see a mix of parents throughout school who took the time to complete the questionnaire. We are hoping for even more parents next time when we re-send the questionnaire and look at the progress we have made! It would be lovely to get more parents contributing so we know we have an accurate picture as possible.

It was incredibly warming to hear some of the wonderful, positive feedback which was given about our school and staff team. We have thoroughly enjoyed reading some of the kind, considerate and thankful messages. Such comments really do help staff morale and wellbeing, which I am sure you will agree, it is vital for this to be strong for any school to be able to move forward. Many of these can be found below – please take a look!

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## What does the school do well?

Communication with parents through the School Gateway; School is always informative

Keeping parents in the loop and engaging well with children

Engaging lessons which encourage all children to participate and do better

Diverse curriculum; very broad curriculum, covered well alongside core curriculum

They are incredibly consistent with the reading approach and never fail to stamp our child's reading record. This has contributed significantly to the progress our child has made within reading

Teacher / child relationships; Really friendly staff and school; Teachers and teaching assistants build strong relationships with children and go above and beyond for my child, there not just my child's teaching staff but my child sees them as her best friends

Listens to children and parents about work and emotional needs; every child counts

Supports and encourages my child as an individual in all aspects of school; School have a really good understanding of pupils' individuality and needs; teach children to be themselves

Promotes good behaviour and being kind to others

Teaches Makaton so as all children can communicate with each other

Participate in dressing up / day activities that children enjoy like world book day, children in need etc; making school not just about learning but having fun too

Understand and work with children and parents in difficult situations; puts the needs of my child first

Education is key which the school exceeds in – absolutely brilliant school

Spots potential in children, especially SEN children

SEND team are fab, Mr Fidment is very keen to get the best support in place for the children. He is very proactive and efficient

Variety of after school clubs to encourage health and well-being, gardening etc; Feel Good Friday is a great idea!

Makes my child feel valued with incredible teachers - Mrs Bamforth who really cares for her children. My child has gone from strength to strength in this particular year for this reason

Headteacher is always visible and is very friendly and helpful. She is always on hand to talk to and has a lovely approach with the children

I feel like all the teachers my child has interacted with genuinely care about his wellbeing which means the world to me. If he's happy then I'm happy. He loves school, his teachers and all his friends. Couldn't ask for more to be honest, at this stage

Engages children in learning, sets boundaries and encourages children to try and build confidence

I feel that this is a good school. Staff are visible each day to ensure the children's safety and to support/discuss any issues that parents/carers may have

The school appears to be well led and any issues during the school day are fed back to the parent/carer at the end of the day

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The staff are friendly, polite, approachable and helpful and answer any concerns promptly; excellent availability of staff to discuss concerns or queries. Any query very promptly handled. So many things!

They have good school meals

We have enjoyed the calmer start to the mornings with parents having time to communicate with teachers

Creating a safe and welcoming environment; The school surroundings are lovely, inside and out

The weekly newsletters are perfect and regular blog updates allow you to see photos and information

Everything, Education is excellent, staff are lovely and the headteacher is the best. Couldn't be happier with the school

If you are aware of any issues that's happened at school or even out of school, they are good at tackling them and informing you of the outcome; If we have any problems, they get resolved quickly

The school motivates my daughter in all areas of learning. My daughter's current class teacher Miss Baxter is exceptional in every way. She takes time out to deliver feedback on Seesaw and the feedback during parent's evening regarding next steps and stretch for my daughter to be exceeding was amazing. Never met a teacher so passionate.

Everything they do for the children, My son has come on so well since starting school in January 2022 and this is all down to him learning new things every day, he loves coming to school and tells me every day what he's been doing and what the class is learning about

Team DB have been fab at helping my daughter and meeting her needs and I really appreciate that. Fab learning environment with kind and caring teachers.

The areas which were identified as areas for us to focus on moving forward were as follows:

#### Even better if...

Offer breakfast at MAC; Expense of after school clubs

Improved communication (more time given for events)

More trips out of school

Hall needs extending

To respond as quickly as possible to any issues

Possible class newsletters to show learning and celebrations for the week – consider use of social media platforms for this

More detail at parents evening or opportunities for parents to find out more about how to support their child; Information on how my child is being prepared for life in the next phase

To stop giving 5 year olds homework

Children were not in mixed classes

Stickers and traffic lights – are they used anymore?

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In response to the above suggestions and comments:

- **Breakfast at MAC:** we are not in a position to offer this as the MAC is based in the hall, due to child numbers and the activities on offer. The MAC also only lasts 30 minutes and there is not enough time to make breakfast for 20+ children in this time, plus we are not insured to have children on site before 8am. If we were to access the Community Room kitchen for food preparation, this would need further staffing and food which would put the price of the provision up further. This latter point is something that we are very keen to not do!
- **More trips:** absolutely, we agree with this! Staff have made some efforts to begin these again eg sporting trips have been back to normal for some time now and go out each week, Y4 and 5 have visited Wombwell and had a visit from the Imran; Year 5 go swimming each week; Y6 have been on residential; Eco-Reps have done Litter Picks and Team AC and CB have just visited The Deep this week. We will ensure that our full enrichment offer is in place moving forward as we really value visits and visitors, just like you do! Thank you!
- **Communication and response times:** we always endeavour for communication to be good and quick and can only apologise if your experience has not been as positive as the many parents who commented on communication being a positive of the school.
- **More sharing of learning and celebrations in class:** this year staff have been advised to celebrate their class' learning etc on the school website, which has been advertised as part of transition meetings, parental meetings and in newsletters also. This is something we shall carefully consider for the next academic year, so as you are as up to date as possible on your child's learning. Full Curriculum progression maps can be found on class pages on the website and are continually updated with the most relevant copy!
- **More information for parents:** pre-COVID our school was in a position where we held many regular meetings for parents eg Phonics Workshops, Reading Together (which has started back up recently), Maths Workshops, Open Lessons and more informal meetings eg Coffee Mornings and Summer Fairs. Ensuring you as parents can best support your child has always been and is important to us, hence the online drop in Zooms during school closures which we adopted to support parents, for example. We have plans in place for all of these support networks to be fully in place. I am sure you can understand throughout the past three years we have had to protect the school community as much as possible and this has meant limiting the amount of inner school functions.
- **To stop giving 5-year olds homework:** homework is always a tricky subject – some parents like it and some do not so we try to opt for a middle of the road expectation which supports the children but does not put too much pressure on families.
- **Children were not in mixed classes:** we have a set number of classroom spaces and a set number of children. Each year, some children *have* to go in to a mixed class. We are always very open and honest with parents about this from when they visit the school for the first time, at new starter meetings and every year we write out to explain why decisions are made. All classes are mixed ability and have a range of abilities in them – staff are trained to meet their needs. There is no other option than to split year groups...45 children will not fit in one class and very careful consideration is given to each placement, because we want the BEST out of your children.
- **Provision for SEND children:** we are a very inclusive school and our staff LOVE the atmosphere that this brings with it, as well as some of the challenges it can bring. However, we have a SEND team which is very dedicated to supporting each child and their families. We have a separate SEND Admin email inbox which you can email to request information or a call back at any point if you are not happy. Class teachers are always more than happy to discuss the provision they have in place for your child. We want to work with families...the door is open!
- **Stickers and traffic lights:** this academic year we have had a change in Behaviour Policy in school, whereby we no longer use traffic lights (an old, well established system for sanctions to behaviours). The reason it has been changed is that, following extensive research and staff training during the pandemic, research evidence suggests how damaging this could be on children and their self-esteem...it goes against the principles of 'praising children in pupil' and 'reprimanding children in private'. This system was trialled in classes like Team AF, Team CB, Team LF and Team JF on the lead up to the new Behaviour Policy and it was found to be effective, hence the change. In short, traffic lights were deemed to have a negative impact. Instead, we have Incredible Me! boards in class which children work hard to get their picture on and reflect a particular Team target which the class is working towards. This 'praise in public' approach is so much better for children's self-esteem and focuses entirely on the positives! Our whole behaviour policy is about positive relationships! This

said, we still have sanctions in the school and the children know these as we talk about them in assemblies and Incredible Us! time, which each class has on a Friday afternoon (this has replaced 'Golden Time' and the children LOVE it)!

Sanctions look different for each child and for each concern, but generally these look like:

a 'leg stretch' in lesson to refocus a child to learning

a quiet word with a child to remind them of expectations

an 'Incredible Me! plan if a child's social and emotional state means they struggle to regulate

access to 'regulation station' in class with fiddle toys so children can regulate (and the same on the corridors as needed)

a missed playtime

a phone call home

a meeting with parents

child on report with several targets reviewed by SLT each day

suspension from school...the sanctions are all of the same, it is just that children are not publicly shamed for their emotional state.

Stickers and rewards are still handed out, but stickers are not what our Park Street children work hard for!

They work hard for the positive, happy, commendable, meaningful conversations and time with trusted adults, which they get CONSTANTLY as a reward for doing the right thing!

NB: a further letter explaining the theory and science behind these changes will be sent out in due course, for those who are interested.

With regards to the questions asked and answered:

- ✓ 98% of parents agree their child is happy at school, 68% of these strongly agree
- ✓ 100% of parents agree their child feels safe at school, 72% of these strongly agree
- ✓ 97% of parents agree that staff encourage children to behave well, 67% of these strongly agree
- ✓ 82% of parents agree that school deals with behaviour well, 67% of these strongly agree
- ✓ 90% of parents agree that school makes parents aware of what their children are learning during the year, 53% of these strongly agree
- ✓ 96% of parents agree there is a good range of subjects available (eg a broad and balanced curriculum), 58% of these strongly agree
- ✓ 90% of parents agree school has high expectations of their child, 57% of these strongly agree
- ✓ 91% of parents agree school lets parents know how their child is doing, 61% of these strongly agree
- ✓ 87% of parents agree that school provides good opportunities to learn from visits and visitors, 49% of these strongly agree
- ✓ 94% of parents agree their child's needs are met and supported well, 57% of these strongly agree
- ✓ 94% of parents agree that staff deal with issues quickly and effectively, 67% of these strongly agree
- ✓ 99% of parents agree that school places a high emphasis on attendance and punctuality, 77% of these strongly agree
- ✓ 97% of parents would recommend this school to other parents!

As previously mentioned, thank you very much for taking the time to complete the questionnaire honestly and thank you also to those parents who have registered their child's names as this helps us to be able to identify parents who we may want to discuss matters further with, to ensure optimum results for your families.

We shall endeavour to work on our 'even better if' actions!

Yours sincerely,

Mrs C Lawson  
Headteacher