

Nursling C of E Primary School



Love . Hope . Courage

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Dear Parents,

A huge thank you to all the parents who managed to complete our online parent survey. The results are in and I have included them in this newsletter along with some further explanations and responses to some of your comments.

	Statement	% who strongly agree / agree
1	My child is happy at school	88%
2	My child feels safe in school	91%
3	My child is making good progress	85%
4	My child is well looked after at the school	82%
5	My child is taught well at the school	89%
6	My child receives an appropriate amount / type of home learning for their age	77%
7	Our school is welcoming	88%
8	Our school keeps us up to date and offers effective ways to communicate	83%
9	Our school celebrates children's achievement	90%
10	Our school makes sure its pupils are well behaved	72%
11	Our school deals effectively with bullying (% includes response don't know)	54%
12	Our school responds well to any concern I raise	66%
13	Our school develops skills in reading and writing	90%
14	Our school develops skills in mathematics	95%
15	Our school offers a wide and varied curriculum	84%
16	Our school offers a sufficient range of after school clubs	66%
17	Our school allows me to get involved	80%

18	Our school has strong links within the local community	61%
19	Our school helps me support my child's learning at home	87%

School response to 5 questions with the lowest percentages

11	Our school deals effectively with bullying.
<p>54% of parents responded with either strongly agree, agree or don't know.</p> <p>A comment from one parent on the questionnaire stated... "A small number of parents make more noise than the rest, and are given in to. These same parents are unable to accept that their children are capable of doing wrong. Other children are being blamed for being involved in instances where others are completely let off. And it's always the same ones. The kids of those of us who don't continually harass the teachers are the ones who suffer."</p> <p>Another commented... "I wish that the children who were bullying others were dealt with in a more strict way. Vile name calling is at its worst."</p> <p>These are concerning comments, therefore I feel it is important to talk through the steps we take and clarify what goes on behind the scenes at Nursling to ensure all of our children are happy in school. If we get informed that a child is unhappy due to friendship issues, we always speak to all children involved. Sometimes this is met with parents contacting the school displeased that their child has been spoken to which fits with the parents comment above. However, it is important that we gather all the facts and run a thorough investigation so matters can be dealt with. It doesn't necessarily mean your child is in trouble and staff often feel they would like to be more supported by parents in this instance. Once we have gathered the facts, we contact the parents of the children who are involved to inform them what has happened so we can work together to resolve the issue. This may involve meetings with both parents and children as well as regular pick up's with specific children which are dealt with in a confidential manner. Unkindness to others is not just down to the school to deal with. We rely on the support of parents to teach our children what is acceptable behaviour and follow up at home to support the clear messages we give in school. Systems in school enable us to look for patterns in children's behaviours and monitor the support we get from agencies and families involved.</p> <p>Cyberbullying occurs online and/or by mobile phone. On occasion, we get reports into school that children are particularly unkind to each other through messages on devices such as on an X-box or Playstation. These can then impact on relationships in school. When this happens we send messages in newsletters and meet with those directly involved to encourage all parents to ensure they are keeping track of what their child is doing online and ensure parental locks are set sufficiently.</p> <p>Our children are taught in school to take responsibility for the things that they do and say to others. We have introduced family groups this year to encourage more care and responsibility towards each other and reflect upon the school values of love, hope and courage. Children who choose not to follow our school values and behaviour policy are met with alongside their parents.</p> <p>If your child is unhappy at school, for any reason, we always want to hear about it and encourage you to talk to the class teacher in the first instance. If things persist then please make an appointment at the school office to speak to Mrs Dodd (KS1 lead) or Mrs Cole (KS2 lead). If you feel it is still unresolved then an appointment must be made to meet with the Deputy Head and then the Head teacher.</p>	

12	Our school responds well to any concern I raise.
<p>83% of parents responded with either strongly agree, agree or don't know.</p> <p>Please raise any concerns you have with the class teacher, even if you think it may be insignificant, it could be part of a bigger picture. The Senior Leadership Team, as necessary, will support the teacher. If the school has concerns, we will make contact directly with parents and work together to resolve the issue. Sometimes this can involve further meetings with outside agencies.</p>	
16	Our school offers a sufficient range of after school clubs
<p>80% of parents responded with either strongly agree, agree or don't know.</p> <p>We are really lucky to have such fantastic after school sport provision which gives our children a wide range of after school sports clubs. In addition this year, we have introduced teacher led clubs to include so far: craft, gardening, chess and computing lego to name a few! Thank you for some really positive feedback...</p> <p>"I would like to say thank you for adding the teacher led clubs after school as this has been so helpful in regards to childcare after school. Also thank you to Mrs White for extending the number of places for the football and dance sessions so my son had a place."</p> <p>"The non-sport after school clubs are a welcome addition and my children benefit from them."</p> <p>"The creation of non-sport related after school clubs was also a welcoming and great idea. Amazing job!"</p>	
17	Our school allows me to get involved
<p>89% of parents responded with either strongly agree, agree or don't know.</p> <p>We welcome the support of parents in our school and this has really developed a lot over the past year. We now have parents (and even Grandparents) regularly volunteering to help support learning in the classroom, hearing readers, spending time in the school library or helping to develop the pond and allotment areas. Two parents are leading our JRSO (Junior Road Safety Officers) team and we have parent involvement in lunchtime supervision and PTA.</p> <p>We are always very grateful to those who volunteer to help out on school trips, walking up to church and swimming.</p> <p>If you feel you want to become more involved then we would love to hear from you! Please let the school office know your availability.</p>	
18	Our school has strong links within the local community.
<p>90% of parents responded with either strongly agree, agree or don't know.</p> <p>Each class this year is scheduled to have a community day where the children organise an event that invites the local community into our school. So far, Year 6 have had a MacMillan charity fundraiser and Year 5 have had a cake sale for Children in Need & Southampton City Mission. We are also developing community links to develop our outdoor learning areas. We have also held parent workshops on phonics, maths and spellings. Our relationship with both St John's Church and St Boniface remains strong and I have recently written to Grove Place to see if we can work together to develop relationships with older members of the community. I am sure there are people out there who could teach the younger generation new skills like how to knit or hold talks on various subjects such as 'What was like to live in the 1950's?' If you have any ideas or suggestions then we would love to hear from you.</p> <p>"The family picnic was a great school community event and it included parents in getting to know the new class teacher."</p>	

Now for responses to some of your comments....

I'm so happy with my child's development at Nursling. Couldn't have asked for a better school. Only thing I would like to add is it would be good if her communications book is written in every week. Has been missed a fair few times recently.

Thank you for this feedback.

We aim to deliver consistency as much as possible and there have been a few comments linked to the use of the communication book so this has since been discussed with the staff to ensure these are used to full effect.

On a positive note, the receipt of 'Important Dates for Parents' document in September and the 'Christmas Countdown' sent out after half term have been very well received this year and we will endeavour to do this again next year. Our Twitter feed and parent texts are also used to good effect.

"Keep up the improvements, communication has really improved. Our son has settled into his year much quicker than previous years, thank you."

"Since the new Headteacher arrival, the communication from the school has drastically improved and offers working parents like us the ability to plan better in order to support our children."

I feel the maths is sometimes too advanced for their years

As you are aware, maths has been a strong area for development for us. When the curriculum changed in 2014, there was a greater expectation on mental arithmetic and reasoning - putting things into context. We have worked, and will continue to work hard, to ensure our children are taught everything they need to know for their year group ensuring support and challenge for individuals as necessary. For more information please refer to the document on the website in your child's class folder entitled 'Maths End of Year Expectations.' This will clarify what the class teacher has to teach your child in maths in the class they are currently in.

"Maths - One out of two of my children has struggled with Maths for the last 3 years and it seems she is still struggling, please can small tests be carried out termly for all children to ensure that any issues and struggles are highlighted and extra support needed in these areas."

We introduced termly tests in KS2 last year to enable the teachers to see where the gaps are and pinpoint where children are struggling. It also ensures our assessments of performance are accurate. Following parent feedback at the end of last academic year, we have now also introduced a time for you to come in and take a look at the papers to enable further support at home. Please refer to the 'Dates for Parents' document on the website. Our first one is Monday 26th November entitled 'Open classroom to view moderation papers, 3:30 – 4pm in Years 3,4,5 & 6.

If you need help in supporting your child then please do speak to the class teacher. We are more than happy to talk anything through. We fully appreciate that methods may have changed since you were at school!

Every celebration assembly I've been to the head has not been there and apparently that is common place. This is the one she should be attending?

Thank you for this comment. The staff team work on a rota basis to deliver our collective worships. Whoever takes collective worship on a Monday, leads the celebration collective worship on the Friday. This not only keeps our teachers skilled and known to the whole school but it enables a strong message or task to be delivered on Monday and rounded up on the Friday.

First thing in the morning, as Head teacher, I am often dealing with queries but do make it into assembly when I can. Throughout the week, I ensure I get into class as often as possible to see what the children are doing and celebrate good practice. Children are also sent to me with their achievements.

Having their own teacher more of the time instead of supply teachers.

There are times when we have to call on supply teachers. This may be as a result of ill health (which obviously can't be helped) or if a teacher is on a training course. Within this profession, teachers have to attend certain courses to ensure they are up to date with expected practice. This happens in every school across the country.

We do try to keep consistency by organising teachers who are known to the school and to the children enabling relationships to be built. This can be a positive thing as the children will get a range of different teachers when they get to secondary school so it is good to be used to a range of personalities and styles.

When a supply teacher is in school, all the work has been left by the class teacher to ensure the journey of learning is not interrupted.

"Sometimes there's far too much homework for them."

"I do believe more homework should be given in the upper years in preparation for the every night homework they get in secondary school."

"There have been times when homework isn't being marked."

As you can see from the first two comments above, home learning is an area where we find it difficult to please everyone. Some families like to be set projects and extra work to support their child at home and others don't. We feel we have a good balance and the home learning projects give families the opportunity to do as much or as little as they want.

However, we do set weekly homework in all classes and expect all children to read at home every night for at least 10 minutes.

Did you know that a child who reads for just 20 minutes a day will see 1.8 million words each year and has scores on the standardised tests in the 90th percentile (because they have experienced so many words!) Compared to a child who has read for just 1 minute per day, who will only see 8000 words each year and will have scores on the 10th percentile. (Nagy and Herman)

Teachers endeavour to ensure homework is marked and we will address this issue to ensure consistency.

"The Olympic day and sports day were fantastic and so well organised. Would be nice to have a school summer fayre and maybe a Christmas one too. (I would be happy to help of course.)"

"I feel that the school lacks opportunities for the Children to partake in social things together for example school discos, fetes both Christmas and summer.... The things that they love are the extra curricular things like school trips, residential, discos"

I'm really pleased to see the offer of help here – thank you! Please pop your details into the PTA box in the office area and someone will be in touch.

Olympic Day and Sports Day events are organised by school staff - Mrs White and Miss White. They take a huge amount of time and effort to organise on top of teaching on a day to day basis.

Other events such as school disco's, summer/Christmas fayres are organised by the PTA. I would be more than happy to support these events at Nursling but to make it viable, the PTA need a large team of people to

organise and run them. If you want to get involved to see more of these things happen, please pop a note into the PTA box in reception with your name and number and they will get in touch.

I am delighted to announce that the PTA have paid for the children to have a Christmas disco in December.

“I feel the school need to be more fun and happier for the children and to have more fun whilst learning.”

“I know they get to go on a residential in year 4 and 6 but schools of the same size in this area get to have a 1 night camp in year 2 and then residential from year 3-6 it saddens me that my children are not getting these opportunities with their peers like other schools offer. I feel that historically the attitude has always been about money and not asking parents to pay for things but if parents know in advance and the payment system is set up so that instalments can be made parents are more than happy to give their children opportunities to go away and will support the school in these things.”

Since 2017, we have introduced so many more school day trips which the children love going on! We totally agree that they enhance the learning experiences of our children and we endeavour to do as much of this as possible. We do however rely on voluntary contributions from parents to make it a viable option. Just paying for the transport alone is hugely expensive and the impact on the school budget is something we just can't afford to subsidise.

The change to the residential trips has proved to be very popular and successful. The Year 4 residential to Beaulieu was fantastic and we all had a great time! Please do look at the power-point on the 'Residential' tab on the website with all the highlights from the days we were away! Residential trips rely on the goodness of the hearts of the teachers to be away from their own families, they do not get paid any extra and in some instances teachers are away from their own class to support another. One parent this year questioned “why the Year 1 teacher was allowed to take a holiday during term time when the children are not?” I can assure you this was no holiday! Teachers do not go to bed until the last child is asleep and they are the first to be up, showered and dressed to receive the children in the morning. They are on duty 24/7. What we offer as a school in the form of residential trips is perfectly acceptable. Again, we do rely on parent contributions to make these trips a viable option.

I would like to thank our parent governor, Mrs Vicky Dixon, for organising the parent survey and collating all the information. I would also like to thank you, the parents, for your comments, feedback and honesty. It is vital we work together to give the children the best education that they deserve.

Best wishes

Mrs Jearrad