

## **Feedback from parent survey 25th April 2022**

Thank you to all our parents who responded to the Parent Survey sent recently. We had 165 responses which is brilliant. We are always keen to interact and talk to parents about what is happening in school and how we can improve our provision. It is always lovely to read some of the fabulous positive comments about staff and school. These are always passed on to individual staff concerned – as are any that are sent in the normal course of our school business. Everyone loves to receive a kind word and a compliment when they are working so hard! Some of the suggestions and further comments have been noted for discussion at Senior leadership meetings to discuss how we can improve.

Although we have represented some parent comments here, they are not all within this report. Some of the comments around school activity are very personal to particular parents and children and, if parents wish to follow up their comment and gain further clarification, please do contact school to further discuss them.

**Question 1: My child is happy at school** had 98 respondents strongly agreeing and 60 agreeing. This is an amazing total of 96% of parents who replied who feel this. If you feel that your child is unhappy at school, please do contact your child's class teacher or a member of our Children and Families Team for advice and support.

### Parent comments:

*'xx always refuses to talk to me about what he's done at school but I can see in the photos on Twitter that he is enjoying it'*

**Question 2: My child feels safe and well cared for in school** was also answered in a very positive way. We know that the worries around the pandemic have really impacted on the emotional, mental health and well-being of some of our children – and their families. As a whole staff, we have worked hard throughout the pandemic, and since returning in September, to develop happy minds and good mental health. Lots of our learning has been around this, as well as the work we have carried out around 'catching up' on academic activity. As a school, we feel this is just as important and needs the same priority. Parents obviously agreed with this as over 97% responded agreeing or strongly agreeing. The vast majority of those strongly agree – 94 people who responded. As a school we constantly tackle behaviour and address any issues immediately – sometimes with the support of parents. We know that there are sometimes issues beyond our control but, as a whole staff, poor behaviour is never left unchallenged and we do everything we can to ensure all our children meet our standards.

**Question 3: School makes sure its pupils are well behaved** links to question 2 in some ways. Again over 97% of people who responded agreed or strongly agreed with this statement. As a result of the impact of the pandemic, we have encountered some exceptionally difficult behaviour in a small number of pupils since the return in September 2021. All staff in school have worked incredibly hard to address the return. We found that lots of our children had a reduced attention span at the start of the academic year – they just hadn't been in lessons for longer periods with the sustained concentration that requires. We have built this up. Mixing socially was a development for some of our children after lockdowns and isolation, again, we have worked hard on social skills and friendship activities. It is something we will continue to work on but we are extremely proud of the way our pupils have adapted back to usual school life and show their good manners, polite behaviour and overall gorgeousness in general.

**Question 4: The school keeps me updated about what my child is learning.** Again, 97% of respondents felt this was so, with 87 strongly agreeing and 72 agreeing. After feedback in previous Parent Surveys we have introduced the termly mini reports and see those as very beneficial and a useful contact going forwards. It has been a little different this year with the impact from the pandemic, but we have reported both social / emotional development and academic ability. School have provided two 'parent interview' opportunities with the full Record of Achievement and an opportunity for further conversation at the end of this academic year. We have also held Stay and learn opportunities and book sharing as well as an invitation to come in and look at our Conservation displays. We also have our class (Infant Building) and year group (Junior Building) emails for direct contact with teachers. Parents are always welcome to contact either office if a further chat is needed and staff will get back in touch. We do try to be as informative and accessible as possible.

### Parent comments:

*'XX enjoys coming to school every day. Staff write great notes in her reading record book which keep us informed about how she is doing in school. XX has made fantastic progress this year and her confidence has grown so much.'*

*'Would love a proper update how my daughter is developing, only get a brief update when dropping her off or picking her up from school.'*

*'It would be nice to be able to see teachers in a morning or an easier form of communication. I feel Twitter is very public and although infant classes have school email, this isn't the case in the juniors. We do get to see junior*

class teachers before and after school but not as easy with the infants.' – we do have emails for all classes in Infant Building and Year Groups in Juniors. See below.

'Parents evening was disappointing. The face to face was very loud in the hall, the pressure of 7 minutes is exhausting and not productive to ask/recall necessary points. 10minutes would be more appropriate.' – we will bear this in mind for future meetings.

**Question 5: When I have raised concerns with the school, they have been dealt with properly.** 85% of people who responded said that they agreed or strongly agreed with this. 11% said they did not know, probably because they have not had to raise an issue with school. We do have some parents / carers who feel the issue with their child has not been fully dealt with and suggest these people speak to a member of staff for the issue to be further dealt with. We aim for all our children to be safe, happy and content in our school.

Parent comments:

'I recently needed to speak to xx about an issue my daughter was having and she dealt with it so sensitively and professionally. Thank you. We both felt much better.'

'xx is happy to come to school and likes being with her friends. Thank you very much for the support you give her and responding to emails when I've raised issues she's had.'

**Question 6: Does your child have SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability).**

12% (20 parents) said yes.

**Question 7: If you answered yes, how strongly do you agree that school gives your child the support they need to succeed?** 48% of those parents strongly agreed and 37% agreed. Three of those parents did not know whether their child was successfully supported by school. Hopefully this is because they have not had to query it! Our Inclusion Team work incredibly hard under the leadership of Mrs Hewitt to ensure all these children get support, interventions and support from external agencies where needed. Termly SEN (Special Educational Needs) review meetings are held which ensures parents are kept well informed and are part of target setting and the decision-making process.

**Question 8: The school has high expectations for my child.** Virtually all the respondents agreed with this, and we are very happy about that! 95% agreed or strongly agreed and seven parents said they didn't know. We are very proud of staff in this school. All staff work hard to ensure your children are given the best possible education with exciting and innovative learning based on a creative curriculum. We ensure that lessons are planned to support learning and any gaps in knowledge as well as provide life long memories.

**Question 9: My child does well at school.** This was also a positive response - 97% of respondents felt their child was doing well, with over half strongly agreeing. Since the pandemic, we have worked hard to ensure that children have been able to return to their normal learning patterns, with additional support being put in for those who had gaps in learning. We have put in place pre-learning and post-learning activity for children where it is highlighted that they need extra support or even just a confidence boost. Staff plan lessons carefully to ensure that they move learning forward in an interesting and exciting way. All children's learning is tracked and monitored carefully and regular meetings of staff ensure that where any children require a boost or additional support, there is some form of intervention.

Parent comments:

'xx enjoys school & is doing really well from what I've seen on her reports/parents evening. I like that she gets pushed above what is expected to help her achieve her full potential. I love the school community and events/activities she can participate in. Thanks for all you do :)'

**Question 10: School keeps me informed on how my child is doing.** Again, the vast majority of parents feel we have done a good job here. 97% of parents who responded agreed or strongly agreed that we do so. Three parents did not know and three disagreed. As a school we ensure that parents are kept informed about their child's learning in a number of ways. We have class emails in the Infant Building and Year Group emails in the Junior Building. This is because children are set on ability for maths in the Junior Building and so it may be a different teacher in that year group other than class that works with your child. This way, your query, question or comment goes to the necessary grownups immediately.

Staff also do a termly mini report for Term 1 and 2 and then the full Record of Achievement at the end of Term 3. We have also held Parent Interviews each term and offered these on a remote or 'in person' basis for parental choice. Staff have held Stay and Learn opportunities for parents to come in to see how their child works in school. We have also had a book share evening as well as an invitation to visit the Conservation Display with work from Thorpe Hesley and our two partner schools.

Parents with concerns about their child can always speak to the class teacher and we ask that you ring the office to arrange a meeting.

**Question 11: There is a good range of subjects available to my child at school.** 96% of parents who responded agreed with this statement and the remaining 4% did not know. All our staff are very proud of our curriculum at Thorpe Hesley Primary School. Each year group team plans lessons carefully to engage and enthuse our children and ensure that they love coming to school to learn. We also have our whole school themes and events such as the Conservation Recycling project in September and the Covid Remembrance Rainbow Day. As two very separate buildings we ensure that our children mix across the age groups and come together regularly to share learning and experiences. A great example is the recent 'Blue day' when #ourJude returned to school and the whole school celebrated with him and his family. Displays in both schools showcase the amazing work that happens across school. Curriculum for each year group is available on the website, as is specific information on class pages.

**Question 12: My child can take part in clubs and activities across school.** 88% of people who responded felt this was so with 5% not knowing and 7% disagreeing. Across school we run a huge variety of clubs both at lunch times and after school – that doesn't include the sporting activities we take advantage of with other schools in our communities – both locally and MAT (Multi Academy Trust) wide. We have also recently accessed some additional sporting 'fun' through the New Collaborative Learning Trust (NCLT) who have worked with Year 4 pupils for the first two terms and given opportunities for collaborative sporting activity. We know that we will not please everybody with the variety of options, and that we cannot accommodate every child in school as much as parents would like – unfortunately (or fortunately!) we have lots of keen children and never enough time for everyone to do everything! Since the pandemic we have increased activity and try to give children chance to try out different activities, but of course these are often limited by availability. We have 550 pupils and so not everyone can get on every club or team. Thank you for understanding this and being grateful for the work our staff do when they also have busy working lives and families of their own at home.

*Since the start of the academic year there have been clubs such as:*

Infant Building Clubs from September 2021:

Film Club, Lego Club, Mini Movers, Choir, Multi Skills, Recorders, Outdoor Kids, Creative Art

Junior Building Clubs from September 2021:

Homework Club, Film Club, Choir, Jive Club, Pound Aerobics, various football, BMX, TT Rockstars

We realise the importance of a well-rounded education and offer lots of opportunity within our usual school day, these extra opportunities are the icing on the cake.

As I am sure parents will know, our staff work incredibly hard and long days providing an outstanding education. Additional things such as clubs and out of hours (sometimes weekend) sporting activities are carried out on a voluntary basis by staff. We are very fortunate that they give their time for this.

Parent comments:

*'It would be lovely for some more clubs to come up for the younger children unfortunately the last one fell at the same time as swimming lessons. XX has her fingers crossed for a baking club!'*

*'My daughter has enjoyed two after school clubs, but has been declined for others. Frustratingly, and not the fault of the school, but we learned that others who did get places didn't want them and, therefore didn't attend. It was disappointing to hear when our daughter really wanted the place.'* – we completely agree with this. We find it tricky too!

*'The school doesn't offer extra activity clubs/teams. There is no football team, netball team, cross country team, athletics. Apparently, it's unfair to pick teams so the limited things they do get involved in, names are picked out of a hat, randomly with no consistency. If the school needs additional funding/resources to accommodate offering a wide variety of clubs/teams it would be nice for the school to try & make this happen for their pupils. Other primary schools manage to. I feel it's all very academic focused however sportsmanship is as important in education.'*

**Question 13: The school supports my child's wider development.** 89% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that school does support our children's wider development. As well as our creative and exciting curriculum, this includes activities such as fund raising, charity work, discussions in assemblies and lessons around social issues and mental health development. Roles within school such as Reading or Playground buddies, school council, Head Boy / Girl and Deputy Head Boy / Girl, lunchtime dining room helpers, monitors etc. Also, the use of Golden Tickets, class points for team work and the sharing of external activity such as swimming, dancing etc in assemblies. We carry out learning around e-safety and being safe on the internet and around friendships and positive behaviour. School also works within the community we live in as well as the wider community to give our children opportunities to have many experiences and learn how to become outstanding citizens of the future. We share and discuss local, national and world events and give opportunities for discussion. A few of our respondents (13) did not know about this question and five disagreed.

**Question 14: The BIG question! I would recommend Thorpe Hesley Primary School to other parents.**

Luckily almost everyone said a resounding yes to this one! Over 70% **strongly** agreeing and over 98% agreeing or more. Nobody said no, and just three respondents did not know, maybe they haven't got to know us well enough yet?!

Determining which school your child will go to is a huge decision and, as a parent, one of the most important you will make. As I have said before, you have chosen this school, one which some people have had to go to appeal to get their children in because they felt it was the right one for them. There are many schools in our area and yet we are so grateful that you chose this one. Your child spends a large portion of their time at school and the influences of staff, ethos, vision and friendships there contribute to the adult your child will become. We all remember being at school and teaching is probably the one job we all think we know lots about as we were a pupil ourselves at some time. At Thorpe Hesley we take our role very seriously and do everything we can to ensure your precious jewels are safe with us. We want them to leave here with magical memories, good learning but most of all, to go on to have an impact in the world and make it a better place – every kind act your children do reflects on us.

As Head Teacher I am so proud to be part of a school that offers all this and I thank you for your feedback, your support and all that you, our parents, do to help this school be so amazing.

Trudi Toms.

**Additional Parent comments:**

*'My son loves attending school and has always had fantastic teachers. All staff are very approachable and friendly, Thorpe Hesley a school is definitely somewhere I would recommend.'*

*'It really is the best primary school.'*

*'xx has come on leaps and bounds since starting this school and we are so grateful thank you to all the staff that make this happen.'*

*'I cannot praise the school enough for how it dealt with the restrictions during the pandemic- allowing key worker children in school, producing zoom lessons, lesson plans, getting back to normal post pandemic - credit where credit is due. The teachers are also extremely hard working & do a lot for the children.'*

*'Thank you for doing an amazing job.'*

*'Utilise text messages more as well as emails for comms.'* – we will try to do this, but text messages cost and emails are free!

*'Amazing Staff, Amazing School, you have made xx's experience of school wonderful'*

*'Thorpe Hesley Primary School is by far the best school in Rotherham. Our Daughter is absolutely thriving. She is so happy to come to school and we are amazed at the amount of different types of learning that takes place. Well done xx, xx and all the other staff for running such an excellent school.'*

*'All staff are always approachable when needed and happy to help. The office staff were very kind when my baby needed feeding during a show and found me a quiet spot! I hope more opportunities to come into school continue to happen as we always enjoy stay and learn sessions.'*

*'Amazing Staff and Amazing School, xx loves her class and her amazing teachers and support staff'*