



Parental/Carer Survey

Outcomes

We would like to thank all parents and carers who took the time to respond to our recent Parent Voice survey. We received responses from 79 families representing over 100 children.

Getting your feedback is always helpful so that we can reflect on what we are doing well and how we can improve in the future.

We have compiled the results below:

<p>Question 1) My child is happy at school?</p> <p>74 (93.7%) parents agree or strongly agree – 44 strongly agreeing 3 parents responded neutrally 2 parents disagree</p> <p>Primary school works in partnership with families to build the foundations for our children’s future and is a time for creating happy memories as children undertake this learning journey. Yes, there will be challenges, yes there will be things that go wrong and yes there will be rocky patches.... that is learning about life and that is what primary school is for but it is also full of new experiences, building friendships and learning adventures. As part of our recent curriculum review a team of staff, governors and parents wrote this mission statement: <i>Our overwhelming desire is that at the end of their association with Thythorn Field each child should leave us with a portfolio of rich and happy memories.</i> This is the bedrock of Thythorn’s philosophy and encompasses everything we seek to achieve.</p> <p>If indeed you believe your child is truly not happy at school, please do talk to us at the earliest opportunity.</p>
<p>Question 2) My child is safe at school?</p> <p>77 (97.5%) parents agree or strongly agree – 45 strongly agreeing 1 parent responded neutrally 1 parent disagrees</p> <p>Our health and safety procedures are constantly under review, with staff training always current. Ensuring the children are safe is paramount.</p>
<p>Question 3) The school makes sure that its pupils are well-behaved?</p> <p>72 (91.1%) parents agree or strongly agree – 37 strongly agreeing 4 parents responded neutrally 3 parents disagree</p> <p>Schools are, by their very nature, reflections of the community they serve. As a result, children bring to school different understandings of how to behave in different situations. We understand that some children need support with behaviour, just as others do with Reading or Maths. We maintain high expectations in this area and, as recognised by OFSTED, the behaviour in school is very good indeed. Where children make mistakes we will always seek to address this with families, where we trust that the behaviour will be acknowledged and together ensure that proportionate and meaningful consequences and plans of action are put in place.</p>

Question 4) My child has been bullied and the school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively?

73 (92.4%) parents selected not applicable or neutral as their children had not experienced bullying

4 parents indicated that their child had experienced some bullying but it was dealt with quickly and effectively.

2 parents indicated that it had not been dealt with quickly or effectively

We do not tolerate bullying of any kind and it is exceptionally rare. We actively teach anti-bullying lessons with all children. We work hard to draw a distinction between bullying and the 'falling out' or 'rough and tumble' that can occur between some children from time to time and that is dealt with in a proportionate way. Where bullying is proven to be happening we will always act promptly and decisively to protect the victim.

Question 5) The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year?

70 (88.6%) parents agree or strongly agree – 34 strongly agree

7 parents responded neutrally

2 parents disagree

This year we have outlined our full curriculum and week by week learning journeys and share this with parents and carers. As communicated several times in our weekly newsletter, full curriculum plans, week by week learning journeys and learning objectives for all subjects are detailed on the class pages on our website.

Question 6) When I have expressed concerns with the school, they have dealt with it properly?

30 (38%) parents responded not applicable or neutral as they have not had cause to make contact about anything

48 (60.7%) parents agree or strongly agree that any concern they have raised has been dealt with properly

1 parent strongly disagreed

This year, despite the limitations of COVID 19, we have ensured that staff remain contactable. All teachers', and Mr Smyton's email addresses are published on our website. All staff and Mr Smyton will return parent phone calls. Mr Smyton is available on the gates at the start and end of most days.

We are committed to working with parents and listen to all concerns sensitively. We will always deal with concerns promptly and report back on the outcomes. Whilst we can't always guarantee that the outcome will be exactly what is wanted we will ensure that we explain clearly what steps are to be taken and the rationale behind them.

Question 7) My child has SEND, and the school gives them the support they need to succeed?

66 (79.7%) responded not applicable or neutral.

Of the 16 parents responding who have a child with SEND, 13 agreed or strongly agreed that the school gives them support to succeed. 2 disagreed and 1 strongly disagreed.

We have a higher than national average of children with SEND and a higher than average staffing ratio, staff training/expertise and resources to support these needs. We work closely with other professionals and the local authority to ensure we can meet pupils' needs. We are proud of the successes of our children with SEND. There will be times when parents are anxious about possible need and what the next steps should be and we would urge them to talk to us, and work with us to understand what, if any, action needs to be taken.

Question 8) The school has high expectations for my child?

64 (79.8%) parents agree or strongly agree – 24 strongly agreeing
12 parents responded neutrally
2 parents disagree
1 parent strongly disagrees

Whilst our aim is to develop the whole child we very much have improving academic attainment and progress at the core of what we do. We maintain the highest standards and expectations for all. Our school motto is: Working and learning together to achieve our full potential.

Question 9) My child does well at this school?

71 (89.8%) parents agree or strongly agree – 37 agreeing strongly
6 parents responded neutrally
1 parent disagrees
1 parent strongly disagrees

Our aim is to develop the whole child: academically and socially. Our school motto is: Working and learning together to achieve our full potential.

Question 10) The school lets me know how my child is doing?

72 (91.2%) parents agree or strongly agree – 42 agreeing strongly
6 parents responded neutrally
1 parent strongly disagrees

This term, despite COVID restrictions, we have offered and undertaken remote parents' evenings with all parents/carers and provided a 'Snapshot' written report to all parents containing academic data and information on other aspects of how the children are working in school. We have also responded to many emails and phone calls. We will always make early contact with parents and carers if we have any concerns.

Question 11) There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school?

71 (89.9%) parents agree or strongly agree – 33 strongly agreeing
8 parents responded neutrally

Our curriculum at Primary School is largely governed by the National Curriculum, which we cover in full. We have, this term, undertaken an additional literature and drama project linked to Shakespeare. Additional opportunities are available too, through extracurricular provision.

Question 12) My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school?

70 (88.6%) parents agree or strongly agree – 39 strongly agreeing
9 parents responded neutrally

Clubs and activities are available every day for all children. This term these have included: sport, drama, music, nature, art/craft and science. Full details are on our website.

Question 13) The school supports my child's wider personal development?

61 (77.2%) parents agree or strongly agree – 28 strongly agreeing
17 parents responded neutrally
1 parent strongly disagrees

We are proud of our 'Learning Powers' which enrich and strengthen our children with skills such as resilience, empathy and teamwork. These are celebrated each week in our special 'Best Seats in the House' assembly and feature in all class areas. We have a strong focus on citizenship and

British values and learn about a range of cultures and important people through lessons such as History and RE.

Question 14) I would recommend this school to another parent?

**77 (97.5%) parents said 'Yes'
2 parents said 'No'**

Question 15) The school has supported and communicated with families well during the COVID-19 pandemic?

**76 (96.2%) parents agree or strongly agree – 58 strongly agreeing
3 parents responded neutrally
We will continue to work hard to ensure that we maintain a high level of clear communication. We value the support of all parents and carers and in return we will always seek to support you in any way we can.**

Question 16) The school has ensured my child's learning can continue - in the case of self-isolation or during Lockdown in the Spring?

**75 (94.9%) parents agree or strongly agree – 46 strongly agreeing
4 parents responded neutrally
Our staff responded quickly to the initial lockdown and did not opt just to post some links or worksheets for children to do. We tried from the very beginning to create home learning that was closely linked to what the children would have been learning in school and that was varied and interesting. We tracked all engagement as we asked children and parents to make regular contact with us and share their daily learning and certainly, where children maintained a regular routine and invested time and care in undertaking the work, the impact of lockdown was minimised.
We have continued our commitment to this and invested time in staff training and money on resources to ensure we can continue to deliver high quality teaching during periods of self-isolation or class closure.**

Question 17) The school has provided the children with a varied and engaging learning environment and curriculum during the COVID-19 pandemic?

**76 (96.2%) parents agree or strongly agree – 47 strongly agreeing
3 parents responded neutrally**

Question 18) My child's teacher has communicated with me or my child when my child has been at home - in the case of self-isolation or during Lockdown in the Spring?

**69 (87.3%) parents agree or strongly agree – 49 strongly agreeing
8 responded neutrally
1 parent disagree
1 parent strongly disagree**

Question 19) The school has utilised effective ways to share activities and special events, even though I cannot be in the building

**75 (94.9%) parents agree or strongly agree – 52 strongly agreeing
4 parents responded neutrally
We have tried very hard to overcome the barriers caused by COVID-19 – we shared 'Welcome to Our Class' videos in place of our traditional open evening, we shared our Harvest celebrations by video in place of our normal Harvest assembly, we presented the UK's first whole school**

'One Night of Shakespeare' online, we live streamed Decorations Day from all classes and we presented a whole school Nativity with a cast of 200 in place of our Christmas performance. We have also ensured our class web pages, Twitter Feed and weekly newsletters contain pictures and news about activities in school and currently feature daily stories read by the teachers.

The Friends of Thythorn have also worked hard to involve the children and parents in activities such as Hallowe'en and Bake Off competitions and virtual raffles.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS and FEEDBACK

Great school really glad my son is here he has grown in confidence and I think communication is very good. I also love tapestry such a great idea.

Thank you. Tapestry is indeed a wonderful tool used for home-school communication in the Early Years.

Thank you for the good job you have all done under difficult circumstances

Thank you.

I'm really happy with the support, education and contact we have had this unprecedented year, I think Thythorn has done really well to ensure the children's education has been maintained as safely as they could. I have loved the weekly newsletter, and I have been impressed with the very rapid response we have had from both Mr Smyton and class teacher when we've have a concern and it was managed with competence and compassion. I thought the on line schooling provided through lockdown 1 was brilliant!! I don't think they could of done anything else to make it better.

Thank you.

I have been really impressed with how well the school has done during the current pandemic. My son has really engaged with the teaching and I feel listened to when I had a concern.

Thank you.

We are so impressed with the school's management of Covid. The information being sent home to parents is amazing and any issues or queries are dealt with immediately. My son is loving being back at school & is really enjoying all of his lessons. The extra steps you are taking with things like the Daily Mile, Rock Hero's Timetables & Shakespeare plays are brilliant. Thank you so much to Mr Smyton and all of the staff for making Thythorn such a fantastic school.

Thank you.

I think it can be difficult to keep up with home learning work as it requires both the child and parent to be well enough to do together. I don't feel they can do activities independently which is also difficult with different aged and ability children at home.

Maybe an outdoor display of work or pictures, or notice with the week's topic might be an idea when it's not raining for the children to be able to point out things they have done and share their work and achievements.

Also, either on the website or at school, pictures of staff with their names. Then when we get letters home from department leads we can know who they are from and put a face to the name.

I do think the school supports wider development and interests though it can be difficult to pursue them and give time to them whilst trying to keep up with homework activities.

Finally, is there a way to link your twitter feed with your website so that posts would appear when looking on the website. Then those without a twitter account (or Facebook) can also share in the children's school life. Thank you all for your hard work.

Thank you for your feedback.

There is no doubt that home learning can present challenges, especially if there is more than one child at home. We do not expect children to do any home learning if they are off school ill. We are working hard to differentiate our home learning offer so that children can work with minimal support but understand the difficulties parents face.

Thank you for your suggestion of outdoor displays – this is something we will consider. In the meantime, all the details are on our class webpages.

Staff photos have always been on display in the school's Reception foyer but following this feedback are now on our website also.

We are talking with our website provider with regards to showing our Twitter feed. If you do wish to use Twitter we are found @thythornfield

The school is better now than ever. My third child through. Thank you to all the staff.

Thank you. We are determined to continue to improve.

The school has managed very well over the last few months.

Thank you

I love the newsletter this yr. it is informative and very child centred.

Thank you

Thank you. You couldn't of done much more this yr.!!

Thank you

Bullying and students behaviour towards each other needs more closely monitoring especially during break and lunch times.

The children only take break time/lunchtime with their own class. These take place in our open play spaces. There is no mixing of classes. The staff to pupil ratio is therefore very high and there is plenty of space to spread out. The children have toys and games to play with. Occasionally children fall out and on rare occasions play can get rough. Staff are always alert and quick to intervene but where something goes unnoticed or isn't reported promptly, we will, once made aware, investigate thoroughly, risk assess and take action. Bullying is not tolerated.

I feel very confident in the way Thythorn is dealing with the covid situation, the low number of cases reflect that. Also the online videos have been fantastic! Thythorn is keeping parents up to date more than ever before!! The leadership is also fantastic which reflects in the happiness of the children!

Thank you.

I think the school could create a bigger subject area to learn about different cultures/celebrations. It would be good to learn about inspirational people from different ethnic backgrounds. Love this school, my child is very happy here. I also believe the school has magnified how important mental health and well-being is which has made my child thrive and become increasingly aware of his own feelings as anxiety since lockdown started. I appreciate all of the hard work the teachers put in to make our children feel special. Thank you always.

We agree that different cultures, celebrations and inspirational people from different ethnic backgrounds should be learnt about. We are looking to develop our work in this area further – this term we have learnt about Black History Month and about Rosa Parks and Nelson Mandella – Mr Smyton did an assembly about this too. We have learnt about Diwali and in RE our year groups have learned about Judaism, Hinduism and Islam. In the new year we will learn about the Chinese New Year.

We maintain a strong focus on mental health and well-being throughout our curriculum and also have ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support), Drawing and Talking therapy and RELATE counsellors available.

The work and variety provided during Lockdown was incredible compared to friends with children in other schools. Thank you all so much!

Thank you.

So happy with school and my son really loves coming every day. Brilliant well done to all.

Thank you.

I feel that the school has done a brilliant job at engaging with my children at any part of them being off due to COVID which in turn has made it a lot easier for them to return to normal school life without problems. I also feel during this difficult year the resilience of my children has shown and this is partly due to how they have been educated at school

Thank you.

I feel that during the lockdown period there could have been more communication between the teacher and my child. They only saw their teacher once. We've not had to self-isolate yet, so not sure of the communication now.

During the initial lockdown teachers were teaching 'key worker' children in school, preparing online learning, responding throughout the day to the numerous emails from children and their parents and feeding back on the regular communication and work sent in that we had asked for from parents. They were making contact with children and families identified as vulnerable. Teachers also undertook a number of distanced home visits to support families where requested e.g to take resources or to support a child and undertook some Zoom get togethers. Teachers were not able to visit every child.

During periods of self-isolation, we expect contact to be made with the teacher on a daily basis by parents/child and their work to be shared. The teacher will then provide feedback on the work. The teacher may also email or call by phone to talk about the learning.

My child has been frustrated by being moved seats on a few occasions and being placed next to a child to prevent them from being disruptive. I understand the teacher strategy for doing this but my child just wants to learn and be with someone at her level who she can engage with who is a high ability student.

It is usual for teachers to move children and for children to sit with a variety of children as we group children in lots of different ways depending on what is being done in class. Any concerns about seating should, in the first instance, be addressed with the class teacher.

We miss Tapestry from EYFS but didn't feel that Marvellous Me was worth it. The one-way nature of Marvellous Me seems to mean a lot of work for teachers as each child would have to be recorded individually. The same information can be conveyed through the website, newsletter and Twitter.

The home-schooling pages are helpful for children in school too e.g. to find specific books and videos when your child can't remember the exact details, or just to seed a conversation.

Thank you for continuing to find alternative ways for the children to share their experiences in school. The videos to show us their classroom, their harvest celebrations and The Tempest were amazing.

Thank you.

Marvellous Me is an app we are working with the developers on to become a channel of communication between home and school as we know Tapestry has been very successful in the Early Years. Our early trial has highlighted some areas which must be addressed. We hope that shortly, with some adjustments, we will be able to roll it out to the whole school successfully.

The school need to ensure classes come out on time as agreed for Covid arrangements. Things have got very slack recently and you need to make sure classes are ready at their allotted time otherwise it is very difficult to social distance and I rely on elderly grandparents to pick up my child and this is very unfair. During a global pandemic, you are putting people at risk. The bubble of one class is big enough, I do not want to mix with other classes. Thank you.

We are sorry if any parents have felt arrangements are 'slack'. We are thorough in our adhering to our risk assessments and desire to keep all safe. End of day arrangements are challenging as we require all children to wash hands before going home and this can take time; coupled with getting their going home things ready plus letters home etc. We want to impact on teaching time as little as possible and so have set times for these things to happen but very occasionally something unexpected can impact on the smooth running of this. The playground space is very large and should provide plenty of space to social distance safely if required. This feedback has been shared with all teachers.

A wonderful school. We are delighted with the current arrangements with staff, Headmaster etc. School is awesome. Thank you.

Thank you.

I can't praise Mr Smyton and all staff enough for being there. All my questions have been answered promptly and with such reassurance. Both mine love school and are thriving even

with lockdown and restrictions. Hope some of the measures such as staggered starts remain after covid.

Thank you.

It will be interesting to reflect on whether there are some silver linings to this whole COVID situation which result in changed practices going forward.

I feel the school has done amazing this year, especially all the extra COVID restrictions etc, very impressed on how they've handled communication and structure to make the children safe

Thank you.

The after school clubs are provided by a paid external provider and are therefore quite expensive. The other clubs are sports based I believe (I apologise if I've got this wrong) and my son isn't sporty. I wonder if a French club, gardening, recorder club or a chess club could be provided for free or a modest contribution? I also think that the musical side at Thythorn could be improved. I was led to believe that they would learn the recorder during school hours and I know other schools that provide this. There is not much communication from the school about music. There doesn't seem to be many times that you can start the piano or percussion without making your own arrangements outside school. As these are paid by the parents, and not dependent on funding, I don't see why these are not pushed more. If you miss the initial letter it seems hard to then start the lessons, as I found with piano.

We are very limited on extra-curricular music provision opportunities at present due to being in a high alert and Tier 3 area as many music teachers are not visiting schools or taking on new students due to the restriction of either our or their risk assessments. Recorders too cannot be played in school at the moment due to the risk of aerosol transmission of the virus.

We have more clubs on offer this term than ever before. They cover sports, drama, Science, Nature, art and craft etc. and are open to all ages. Staff are currently running extra provision for English and Maths after school to help children 'catch up' after a period of lockdown. Currently the challenge of running clubs is also complicated due to the requirement not to mix bubbles. In addition, all marking and preparation has to be done after school on site rather than being taken home to do in the evenings and as such the additional time required for staff to run further 'free' clubs in their own time is not something that is currently viable.

I was really anxious about my son returning to school for the new academic year but honestly with all of the measures in place and mr smyton being at the front of the school of the beginning and end of each day has really made a difference in how I felt.

Thank you.

Thank you to all of the staff for making my child's experience at Thythorn such a positive one. There is such a lovely family feel at the school and my child has really benefitted from being a part of this community. The learning and his social and emotional well-being has been great and we look forward to the rest of his journey at Thythorn.

Thank you.

Supported my child.

Thank you.

The kids need to be pushed a little bit harder on the academic front. They are capable of doing much more than is being asked of them.

Whilst our aim is to develop the whole child we very much have improving academic attainment and progress at the core of what we do. We maintain high standards and expectations for all. If you feel that your child is not rising to these expectations or challenging themselves with the work provided, please do talk to us. We will certainly be in contact with you if we feel your child is under performing.

i honestly think this school is better now than ever even with the covid situation. my eldest left 2 years ago but now I feel much more involved and informed even though the school is different because of covid. My sisters children go to another school and the home learning and contact with the school is nowhere near as good at all. well done and thank you all.

Thank you. We are determined to continue to improve.

Learning journeys and shared information on the website very useful to engage children at home but recently have been out of date and not updated regularly for the current term and the Marvellous Me app hasn't been used. The school have managed covid procedures fantastically and have made plenty of opportunities to ensure the children still have fun at school while they learn. My child is happy to go to school and has always loved the teachers and staff.

Thank you.

Having checked the website, there is indeed one year-group which had not had one aspect of its learning journey updated – apologies for that.

Marvellous Me is an app we are working with the developers on to become a channel of communication between home and school. Our early trial has highlighted some areas which must be addressed. We hope that shortly, with some adjustments we will be able to roll it out to the whole school successfully.

The school has been amazing, constantly adapting to the ever changing circumstances this year. Would highly recommend, really feel that the teachers care about all the pupils as individuals and have supported the parents so much this year in such challenging circumstances. THANK YOU to everyone who puts so much into the education and well-being of our little people!!

Thank you.

We are committed to giving all our children the best start possible and are proud of our school. A successful, positive partnership between home and school is so important in ensuring each child gets the very best from their time with us. Thank you for all the feedback both in this survey and through the many supportive emails and letters we have received. We welcome developmental feedback and often we find it tallies with our own developmental priorities. If indeed you ever have any concerns, questions or worries then please do contact us at the earliest opportunity.

Richard Smyton
Acting Headteacher