



Thorndown Primary School and Pre-School

Hill Rise, St Ives, Cambs, PE27 6SE

Tel: 01480 375103

Headteacher: Miss V Godbold



14th May 2021

Parent Questionnaire 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As always, I have to start by thanking all the families who completed the annual parent questionnaire this term. This is just one of the ways in which we collect your views about the school. During these Covid affected times, when we have not been able to welcome parents into the building as usual, the questionnaire is particularly important for us. We received 171 replies, which was much higher response than we have ever had.

We are thrilled by the overwhelmingly positive responses we have received, which are summarised below.

My child is happy at this school	97% agree or strongly agree:
My child feels safe at this school	98% agree or strongly agree:
The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved	1% of parents disagreed
The school dealt with bullying quickly and effectively	99% agreed or responded, 'My child has not been bullied.'
The school makes me aware if what my child will learn during the year	85% agree or strongly agree:
When I have raised concerns with the school they have dealt with it properly.	96% agree or strongly agree, or responded, 'I have not raised any concerns.'
The school provided a balanced range of home learning during the Covid 19 closure	94% agree or strongly agree:
My child does well at this school	95% agree or strongly agree:
The school lets me know how my child is doing and how I can support my child's home learning	96% agree or strongly agree:
The school supports my child's wider personal development e.g. confidence, resilience and independence.	91% agree or strongly agree 6% don't know

Thank you to those parents who included additional comments or suggestions. These are very useful and will help to inform our development plan as we continue to improve.

Our main area for development from this survey is the way in which we are able to involve parents again in school life and communicate what children are learning. The number of parents who felt that they were not aware of what their children learn during the year was much lower than usual. We have really missed our usual events, such as Open Classrooms, Parent Forum, Open School and parents' information sessions. These are great ways for you





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to learn about what your child is learning and how you can support at home. They also provide you with opportunities to ask questions or chat through any issues quickly and easily with the class teacher. We hope that, with the removal of Covid restrictions, we will be able to run all of these events again in September. Our website contains information about our curriculum, with specific information for on the Year Teams' pages, and we are looking to improve this further. We are also very happy to answer any questions you have.

In addition to the parents' events, we have also all missed some of the activities we usually run to support the children's wider personal development, such as our productions, residential and local trips. Our Well-Being Days have tried to address pupils' friendship, social and mental health issues but we are still keen to return to some form of "normality" as soon as possible. We really value the importance of developing the whole child and I will be responding to the DfE guidance as soon as it arrives to open things up again. Aristotle says, "Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all".

In addition to the usual questions, we asked for your views about parents' evenings. Some people have requested a longer parents' evening in the spring term. In most schools, appointments at parents' evenings are around 10 minutes long. Currently, we use one of our training days in the Autumn Term to enable everyone to have longer 20-minute appointments when classes and teachers are new. Although this takes up an entire school day, and also extends into the early evening, this has proved very successful. I am delighted that parents find the longer appointments so useful and we have planned to do this again in October. However, to ensure that our school keeps getting better and better, and we are able to provide the best possible education for your children, our staff do need training days to continue their professional development. We use the training days to introduce new ways of teaching and learning and to continue to develop our practice. Therefore, in order that standards remain high, I'm afraid that I cannot allocate another of our training days to holding longer parent discussions in the Spring Term. I am sure that you will understand this decision. However, we are always happy to meet with you, so if you have any worries about learning or behaviour, SEN, your child's mental health or just want to discuss how your child is getting on, I urge you to contact us.

We also asked about whether you prefer to attend parent consultations online or in person, or would like a mixture of both. Over 70% of you requested a mixture. We will endeavour to offer you both options from September.

Thank you again for your honest feedback on school life for your child and your family. We are very proud that **98% of our parents said that they would recommend Thorndown Primary School** to another parent. We frequently have families looking around Thorndown because of another parents' recommendations. Thank you.

Please do not wait for the next annual questionnaire to share your suggestions or views; just contact myself, one of the school's leadership team or a school governor.





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We have really appreciated your support and partnership this year, as we have aimed to provide your child a happy, safe and productive/ purposeful education. It has been invaluable!

Yours sincerely

Miss Vicci Godbold

