



ABBOTS FARM JUNIOR SCHOOL
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Our School Values:
Courage Tolerance
Consideration Honesty
Creativity

Whole School Analysis of End of Year Parental Survey

Thank you to all parents who returned their forms. Your feedback and comments are always welcome. The school's leadership team have looked at all the data, including your comments, and thankfully nothing has been brought to light that isn't already part of our ongoing improvements. The next stage of this process will be for us to provide individual feedback to class teachers and discuss how the school will be addressing any common themes across the whole school.

Parent Responses to Questionnaire July 2016					
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Overall %
My child enjoys school	69%	31%	0	0	100%
My child is making progress at this school	72%	26%	1%	0	99%
Children behave well	63%	34%	3%	0	97%
My child is not bullied or harassed at school	65%	31%	3%	1%	96%
The teaching is good	74%	22%	4%	0	96%
I am kept informed about how well my child is doing	65%	34%	1%	0	99%
A friendly service from the office	78%	22%	0	0	100%
Confident to talk to your child's teacher	72%	25%	3%	0	97%
The Senior Leadership team are approachable	74%	26%	0	0	100%
Staff expect my child to work hard and achieve their best	82%	14%	4%	0	96%
The school is well led and managed	83%	17%	0	0	100%
Staff treat my child fairly	76%	24%	0	0	100%
The school seeks the views of parents and takes into account their suggestions and comments	65%	30%	5%	0	95%
The school provides appropriate home learning	51%	42%	7%	0	93%
The school is helping my child become mature and independent	78%	22%	0	0	100%
There is a good range of after school activities	73%	22%	5%	0	95%
The arrangements for my child to settle into school were good	81%	19%	0	0	100%

Main Action Points (95% or less parents agree):

1. The school provides appropriate home learning (93% Strongly Agree/ Agree)

Some Parent Comments: 'Too much', Need longer to complete', 'Too much parent involvement', 'No tasks during holiday periods'

Our teaching staff set challenging home learning tasks in line with the school's policy and as appropriate for the age of the pupils, that either consolidates learning, deepens understanding or prepares the pupils for the classroom work ahead. Research has shown that setting home learning can have an impact of up to two months' additional progress made by a pupil in primary schools and we have certainly seen evidence of that within our own school.

Although it is not statutory for schools to set home learning tasks, where schools do, the law gives them the legal right to ensure that pupils complete any tasks 'reasonably assigned to them' in connection with their education. This means that teachers are empowered by law to set home learning that is reasonable in terms of volume and difficulty and to impose disciplinary sanctions on pupils who fail to complete it.

Our home learning need not and should not get in the way of other activities that children do after school. We set our home learning tasks to be completed within a week to give families time to organise when the work will be completed. Pupils should be able to complete the home learning independently but we do appreciate that sometimes parents wish to be involved or need to encourage their child to complete the tasks.

We advise all our parents to talk to their child's class teacher to discuss any concerns they may have about the amount or difficulty of home learning their child receives.

2. There is a good range of after school activities (95% Strongly Agree/ Agree)

Some Parent Comments: 'Not enough clubs', 'Too much sport', 'Waiting list – availability', 'Longer than half a term', 'more lunch clubs'

Where possible, we always look to provide as many opportunities for our children to take part in extracurricular activities. Every year we offer a wide variety of clubs (25 in total across last year). Whilst it is not compulsory for teachers to run clubs after school, we are very fortunate that the staff here offer them on a regular basis, despite the ongoing demands of heavy workloads and their own family commitments. Where possible, we try to maintain a balance of sports and creative clubs for all ages. However, running clubs for longer than half a term can be difficult, especially for those that are dictated by the weather. If they are on the same night as a club running in the hall, there is sometimes no choice for us but to cancel – and this can occasionally be at short notice. Additionally, other school commitments placed on teachers (training/reports/assessments etc), can also affect the length of time they can commit to a club for.

Our lunch supervisors design a rota for lunch times so that children can access structured play activities on a daily basis for all pupils to get involved in. Additionally, we have now employed two sports apprentices that will be offering additional sports activities at lunchtime as well as after school.

Pleasingly, this term we have been able to allocate all clubs requested by those who returned the forms and look forward to their participation.

3. The school seeks the views of parents and takes into account their suggestions and comments (95% Strongly Agree/ Agree)

Some Parent Comments: 'Newsletters or text messages not received', 'Informing parents how their child is getting on', 'Short notice cancellation of clubs or events', 'Better feedback on how things should be done if incorrect', 'More warnings given about special events e.g. fancy dress event', 'Encouraging reading at home and checking diaries'

The staff have discussed the comments made by some parents and we will endeavour to ensure that any comments or suggestions made by parents are actioned this year. Please make use of the home learning diaries as a means of communication between home and school or alternatively ask to speak to the class teacher at a convenient time.

Notice of events

Each term we send out a paper version of the year's calendar with majority of the school's significant events for the entire academic year. As things change or develop over the year, we will update the calendar each term and you receive a paper copy and it is put on the school website (www.abbotsfarm.co.uk). We also have a live school calendar on the website with up-to-date information.

The monthly newsletters do try to give reminders of events for that month and these are sent out at the beginning of each month. They are also available on the school website. However, sometimes the staff decide to put on a special curriculum event at short notice when the pupils' learning has inspired it. As parents have commented on the inconvenience of this, we have discussed as a staff the need to limit these occasions.

With regards to cancelling clubs or events at short notice, unfortunately this is unavoidable at times through staff illness or weather issues but we do try to let parents know as soon as possible via the text message service. Like all technological services, things can go wrong and we are sometimes reliant on the service providers to ensure that the messages get sent. We haven't had too many issues but do know that a few parents have sometimes not received messages and we do try to resolve them as soon as possible. A test message was sent out on **Wednesday 14th September** to check that we have the correct details. Please inform the office if you did not receive any message.

Information and feedback

A 'drop-in' for our new year 3 parents was held last week so that they could meet the class teacher and raise any queries or questions they may have had. The staff will use the home learning diaries as a means of commenting on home learning, reading or general learning behaviours. Please ensure your child has their book in school each day. In the child's home learning book staff will show where improvements could be made and feedback on how successful the child has been.

Each term, you will receive a report on your child's progress, either by a meeting with your child's teacher (October and Easter), a written update (End of Autumn Term) and their final end of year report (July).

Reading

We monitor the amount of reading materials in each band and accelerated reader stage to make sure there is a variety for children to choose from. Our teaching of reading focuses on children reading for decoding (knowing the words), reading for fluency (being able to read the words without having to sound out each word), then focusing on reading for meaning (the child understands the plot of the story or the content of the text.)

As the children become confident decoders and more fluent in their reading, we heavily focus on their comprehension of the text. We encourage all our pupils to read regularly to an adult and suggest 5-10 minutes each evening is better than one long session. Please note in the diary when they have read and make any comments for the class teacher as necessary.

I hope this overview addresses many of the points that were raised in the feedback and once again thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Sharon Farrell
Headteacher