

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for all the responses to our questionnaire. We had a 41% (150 out of 365) return – which is 8% higher than last year.

The responses to the questionnaire were very positive and showed how much you all value the school. If you would like to discuss any of these results please make an appointment to see me.

If the responses do not add up to 100% that is due to rounding and/or the question was not answered or more than one response was given for a question. One response is equivalent to 0.7% which is rounded up to 1% when the responses are very few.

Kind regards

Mrs McKay



Please tick	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not applicable
Wellbeing					
My child enjoys being at school.	75%	23%	2%	0%	0%
My child feels safe at school.	78%	22%	0%	0%	0%
My child is encouraged to do their best.	67%	31%	1%	0%	0%
My child feels that they can talk to their teacher about any worries or if they have a problem.	54%	41%	2%	0%	1%
Brunton First School encourages my child to have a healthy lifestyle.	65%	32%	1%	0%	0%
My child's teacher really knows my child as an individual.	53%	41%	4%	0%	1%
My child is treated fairly and with respect.	61%	37%	1%	0%	0%
Brunton First School meets my child's individual needs.	52%	43%	3%	1%	0%
My child enjoys their school meals.	37%	47%	6%	1%	8%
Learning and Curriculum					
My child is making good progress.	64%	33%	3%	0%	0%
The curriculum offers a good balance of academic, creative and sporting activities.	59%	39%	2%	0%	0%
There is a good range of hands on opportunities for my child to take part in including visitors into school, educational visits and themed weeks.	66%	34%	1%	0%	0%
Brunton First School provides a good range of after school clubs.	49%	41%	8%	1%	1%
Brunton First School sets appropriate homework for my child.	44%	47%	5%	0%	3%
Behaviour					
Pupils are well behaved	56%	44%	0%	0%	0%
Brunton First School deals effectively with unacceptable behaviour.	37%	41%	1%	1%	6%
Communication					
I get regular, accurate and helpful information about my child's progress.	34%	49%	16%	0%	2%
My child was well prepared for their transition into school/ their next class?	51%	40%	1%	1%	20%
After parents evenings I know my child's next steps and how I can help them at home.	55%	39%	3%	0%	6%
Brunton First School keeps me up to date with what is happening through newsletters.	69%	32%	0%	0%	0%
Brunton First School has an open door policy and I am made to feel welcome and valued.	57%	41%	2%	0%	0%
Brunton First School takes account of my suggestions and concerns.	43%	39%	2%	1%	32%
The school is led and managed effectively.	61%	37%	2%	0%	0%
Overall, I am happy with my child's experience at Brunton First School.	71%	28%	1%	0%	0%

These are some of the comments made at the end of the questionnaire. Comments have been grouped together when similar comments were made.

What do you feel school does really well?

- Involving the children in their community and local charities
- Development of the individual
- School is nurturing and helps the children grow at their own pace
- Making children feel valued and safe
- Good home/ school relationships
- Very inclusive school
- Well behaved children
- Communication is excellent especially through newsletters, parents' evenings
- Allowing parent participation in many events during the year
- School trips to extend the children's learning
- Encourages independence and confidence
- Setting the right level of challenge for the child
- Fun themed weeks, visits, class assemblies
- Strong literacy and numeracy
- Broad range of opportunities via school clubs, music lessons etc
- Creative and varied curriculum supporting individual learners
- The amount of opportunities for communication and feedback
- School as a whole and each classroom are welcoming, friendly and very visual
- Promotes a healthy lifestyle
- Super, friendly staff
- Good range of after school clubs
- A well-managed school

What does your child enjoy about school?

- Everything
- School is a fun place to be
- Enjoys new learning and the different topics
- The fact they are having so much fun they forget they are learning
- Feeling part of a community
- STEM week
- All the staff
- Teachers encourage you to do the best you can
- Visits out of school
- After school clubs
- Singing with Mr Millar
- Celebration assemblies
- Positive relationships with teachers and peers
- Enjoying learning and being with their friends
- Reading with friends – guided reading
- Friendship groups
- School lunches
- Themed weeks and non-uniform days

What would they like to change?

- Nothing
- Alternatives at lunchtime/Friday lunch
- More opportunities to participate in activities as part of Brunton voices/eco warriors
- Assemblies especially for the older children

- Year group assemblies for events like Mother's day
- More things to play with at break and lunchtimes
- A better range and more PE/sport
- 3 form entry

Any other comments which might help us – there were so many positive comments which were fantastic to read and reflects the parental attitude towards school and the appreciation of all that has been done this year. Here are just a few.

- A fantastic school - children are happy, settled and love learning
- Brunton has a lovely atmosphere with a positive learning environment
- A very welcoming school with the headteacher always being available to speak to which is highly respected by all
- There isn't anything I would change about the school. I think we are very fortunate that our children attend such an excellent school and we wouldn't ask for anything more
- Keep up the great work!
- I couldn't ask for a better start to my child's education
- We appreciate the support and helpfulness of all staff across the whole school
- School has grown massively yet we still feel it looks after each individual child.
- Keep doing what the 'Brunton team' are doing and the children will have a fantastic start to school life
- Brunton is a great school both in matching my child's education and development needs
- The school challenges the children to discover and learn new things in an exciting way
- The staff do a fantastic job
- Overall a wonderful place to learn

From the comments which raised a concern and from concerns identified in the table above (the concerns were from 1 or 2 responses), please see below the actions we as a staff are taking in response to those concerns.

Comment	Our Action
<p>Communication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All classes posting on Twitter • Update website more often • Class blogs/photos on website • The noticeboards are often out of date • Written communication could be clearer – sometimes there are mistakes • More notification for visits • More notice given for time to prepare for school trips and class assemblies • Give parents more notice of upcoming events 	<p>We are encouraging all classes to use Twitter. The website is updated regularly and we would rather use Twitter at present than a blog. The noticeboards will be updated and should be kept up to date from now on. We are all human and sometime mistakes get through even though written communication is checked. We do apologise and we will try to ensure there are no mistakes in future. I try to ensure that dates for the next term are on the last newsletter of each term. The Key Stage newsletters add extra information pertinent to those particular year groups. Often it is the way the children wish to develop their theme which instigates a visit at short notice.</p>
<p>Children's academic progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More regular feedback on progress – monthly not just reading records and parent's evenings, maybe a phone call home, sharing the child's work/progress with parents at the end of the school day • Knowing where my child is compared to the rest of the class • Knowing if my child has an intervention prior to it happening • Specific targets in reading journals rather than general comments • More time for PE and music • More practical skills – cooking and sewing 	<p>Your child's progress is very important to every member of staff. The teachers know your children very well and are aware of what they need to do to continue making progress. If we had concerns about your child's progress we would contact you and discuss this with you outside of parents' evenings. It is impossible to share each child's progress at the end of the school day or to ring each parent. We look at each child individually and we do not compare a child to another child. Our main concern is that your child is making the progress we would expect. If your child needs a little extra help in one area then a short intervention may be put in place – this would not be a major issue or one which you, as a parent, need to worry about. The reading journals are to encourage your child to read fluently, with expression and to build up their comprehension skills. A parents' evening for reading after reception will be held in school one evening.</p>

<p>Homework</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online learning to use at home • Suggestions to support learning at home • Homework sometimes too long and sometimes too short • More challenging maths homework • Homework for Reception children 	<p>The class teachers will advise you on ways to support your child at home. There are suggested websites on our school website.</p> <p>As a school we believe that homework should be practicing and reinforcing skills they have been using in lessons rather than challenging to learn new skills.</p> <p>In Reception the main homework is reading and building up word recognition. Sometimes the children will be given mathematical activities to do. This is enough for 4 and 5 year old children after a long day at school.</p>
<p>School to be more considerate for working parents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficulty in attending meetings/activities in the school day • Parents expected to take part in too many activities • A more formal feedback process for working parents 	<p>We do understand that attending school events and meetings are difficult if held in school time but we do try to give as much notice as possible so, if possible, arrangements can be made to enable you to attend.</p> <p>The parent's evenings are the formal feedback for all parents which are held out of school time. Class teachers are happy to discuss any issues over the phone if necessary.</p>
<p>Lunchtimes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School meal choice and variety • Sandwiches to be available once a week • Eat school dinners with friend who have packed lunches • Better chairs – some are cracked • Sometimes the lunchtime staff do not listen to a child • Issue with behaviour at lunchtime for Reception children – staffing/supervision levels? 	<p>School meals are always an issue. Some children love them some children do not. Our menus are varied and the children have plenty of choice but if your child is a fussy eater then it is more difficult. To give a sandwich option the children would have to decide first thing in the morning as the quantities of food being prepared would need to be altered. This then causes the problem that children change their minds by lunchtime.</p> <p>The lunchtime tables and chairs are repaired if any are damaged and have to be replaced with the same seats. The lunchtime staff have meetings to discuss any issues. This will be discussed at the next meeting so as Reception children feel listened to.</p>
<p>After school clubs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More yoga, dancing clubs • More sports clubs • First aid to be available to all • Wider choice of clubs 	<p>From the club survey there were very few suggestions as to how we can improve. We are working on the Autumn programme and hope to have a wider range of clubs. We have contacted a number of new providers however very few can offer the time/day slots we require. Hall space is an issue so we cannot hold any more sports clubs as the halls are in use every day for clubs. All year groups need to have the chance to take part in sports clubs so there cannot be more offered to any one year group.</p>
<p>Safety Parking issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolve traffic issues at drop off and pick up times 	<p>There is not a way to resolve traffic and parking issues at drop off and pick up times unless all parents/carers who use cars take responsibility. Parents/carers have been asked on numerous occasions to park in parking spaces only (unless they have a blue badge) yet there are still those who believe they should be able to park where they wish. School has constantly asked car users to consider the residents yet we still have complaints from residents about parking. We have the largest car park of all the first schools and most primary schools in Newcastle. The vision of The Great Park was a green environment where children and parents would walk/cycle etc to school. This is what we are trying to encourage – more car parking would not do this. All parents may use the Park and Ride car park and then walk to school</p>

General issues

- Classroom doors to make sure they are open at 8:45 (can be inconsistent)
- More flexible drop off and pick up times

- Change of teacher part way through a year was not acceptable

- Encouraging new friendships
- Traffic light system doesn't suit every child
- Unfair that children who misbehave do not get the same attention/rewards as other children
- More mindfulness/wellbeing

- More language and music opportunities

- Parents' receive a letter in advance detailing what the class will cover in their next topic so extra learning can be done at home
- More play things in the yard
- Pave the muddy area near the willow reading den

- Nativity plays divided into smaller performances
- Have only 2 performances at Christmas
- Teachers and children to use microphones in performances

- How to contact teachers after 4.15 when collecting from clubs

We will strive to ensure the doors are opened at 8.45 and closed at 9.00.

We cannot have more flexible drop off and pick up times as we have to teach children for a set amount of time per week and if we wished to change the school day so the younger children started earlier than the older children this would cause more congestion with families having to wait longer for all their children to go into school.

In Reception when a member of staff got a new job the headteacher and governors made the decision to use the experienced staff in school, as a job share, for the rest of the year rather than have a supply teacher until another teacher could be appointed, which usually takes about 6 to 8 weeks. Maternity cover happens within school as I know you all understand that is something which is out of school's control. All the children are encouraged to make new friends and play with different children. If we feel a child needs help with this we run friendship groups where the children mix with different children and do activities.

We use the traffic light system and the majority of children do understand and want to be on the sunshine. We reward children for lots of different reasons. If a child has misbehaved then the next day that is forgotten about and the day starts a fresh.

We are developing our successful lifelong learning which will develop well-being and mindfulness in school.

In reception and years 1 and 2 the children have music with Mr Millar which they love but is at an extra cost to the school. When children are in years 3 and 4 they have sessions learning to play African drums or Bamboo Tamboo again at an extra cost to school. The children in years 3 and 4 can learn to play a musical instrument for a small cost to parents. In years 3 and 4 the children begin to learn Spanish and there is an after school French club.

All parents receive a curriculum map at the beginning of each term at the curriculum and coffee meetings. If you are unable to attend the map will be sent home with your child. This gives the overview of the curriculum for the whole term.

We constantly add to our play equipment. This is ongoing and the Sainsbury's vouchers help us provide more equipment each year – so please bring your vouchers into school.

We don't want any more hard area in the yard – we want to enjoy the willow in a more natural setting.

Our Christmas performances can only be done in key stages otherwise we would have to begin them in the middle of November which is much too early to be thinking about Christmas. We could reduce the number of them but as the numbers in the school grow there will only be one ticket per performance. We do try to ensure the children use the microphones as much as is possible.

If you need to contact anyone in school after 4.15 please either ring and leave a message or speak to a member of staff who will pass the message on to the correct teacher.