



Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for all the responses to our questionnaire. We had a 51% return (216 out of 421), which is 4% lower than last year.

The responses to the questionnaire were very positive and showed how much you all value the school. I have looked at the additional comments with issues and tried to group them with any actions the school will be taking.

We have had a very small number of families who disagreed with some of the questions. If you are one of the families, please come into school and discuss these with me, as it is important that we try to ensure that all the children have a positive and happy time in school.

Kind regards

G McKay

These are some of the positive comments made at the end of the questionnaire.

- Absolutely wonderful school.
- Excellent support from staff when my child had some difficulties with anxiety at the start of last term.
- Thanks for being amazing in all you do!
- We are very happy with the school for lots of reasons. I think the most important thing for us is that the teachers and teaching assistants really seem to know and understand our child. The happiness of the children in school seems very important to the school ethos.
- I think the school does an amazing job and the staff are amazing and always very friendly.
- Another happy year spent at Brunton First School.
- My son has progressed well and we are really happy with how he has grown up during year two and starting to love school! Teachers are a credit to Brunton and we have no concerns at all. Thank you!
- My child loves school and is particularly enthused by the lovely topics. I am so impressed with the amount of work that is produced and how this is balanced out with a range of creative activities- visitors/trips/themed days/ werks etc. I would also like to commend the school for their very sensible approach to the KS1 SATs. As a parent, I was impressed and reassured by the information given at the parents' meeting.
- Brunton is a lovely school and the staff are friendly and approachable. Lessons are fun and engage my child and she wants to learn and do her best. Thank you to all the staff who work hard to instil a love of learning.
- My son loves Brunton school, normally the first to the playground. He talks about how he is encouraged to be healthy, kind and work hard. He is very settled which gives me peace of mind knowing he is cared for, safe and happy everyday.
- Thank for being amazing in all you do!
- Couldn't be happier. My child loves it
- I can't believe my daughter's progress this year - she is one of the youngest in her class and couldn't read or write when she started. That progress is down to Brunton's amazing staff. She is happy and confident in school and again I put that down to the care and support she gets when she is there. Thank you!
- Being still new to the area and school we are still so thrilled to have been welcomed at Brunton. My child has been guided very well and we see improvements in his motivation every

day. I have been able to become part of the library volunteers which I highly value! Thank you Brunton especially to Mrs McKay and all the year 2 staff.

- Brunton First School has exceeded our expectations and has given our son the best start to school we could have asked for, we literally couldn't ask for more. Every member of staff I have interacted with at Brunton First School are fantastic.
- Thank you to the Reception team who have made my son's first school year so enjoyable. The curriculum has engaged his interests and has encouraged him to want to do work at home. The progress he has made since September has been fantastic and the support the staff have given him has been excellent. Thank you for all your hard work.
- We are delighted with how well my son has adapted to school life. He absolutely loves school and has embraced all of the wonderful opportunities. The Early Years staff are brilliant and their kind and caring approach, combined with a creative hands on curriculum, ensure that children get off to a great start.

**From the comments which raised a concern (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><b>Communication</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parentmail <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- too many e-mails sent,</li> <li>- important information can be missed</li> <li>- letters as well as parentmail please</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Twitter - more frequent updates on what the children do on a day to day basis. Twitter seems to be under used and would be a great medium by which to communicate to parents on the children's activities.</li> <li>• More notice for upcoming events</li> <li>• An excess of PTA events at times</li> <li>• Trips are arranged with minimal notice</li> <li>• Some weeks the volume of things to bring in and remember is extensive.</li> <li>• Better home school communication is definitely something we would welcome.</li> </ul>	<p>Parentmail: We only send e-mail to you if it concerns your child's year group. General e-mails with newsletters etc are sent to the whole school. Paper communication is only sent out if we need a reply and payment to a 3<sup>rd</sup> party for eg the dance festival. All parents need to ensure that parentmail communication is not set up to go to the junk folder. As a school we can see if you have read the e-mail and we have a large proportion of the school who do. When we sent letters in book bags a lot of parents said they didn't receive any communication. Parentmail has cut down our paper costs this year. We will try to use Twitter more often to show what the children are doing in school. We try to give you as much notice as possible - the dates in the diary normally cover the whole term. We organise visits as soon as we can but we use the children's ideas so have to organise the visits once it has been decided where to go. We hope the continued use of Parentmail and improving the use of Twitter will improve the communication to parents.</p>
<p><b>Children's academic progress</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More rewards/ certificates for efforts and achievements</li> <li>• To know where my child is compared to their peers</li> <li>• What is needed to move up to the next stage.</li> <li>• Children to change groups more frequently.</li> <li>• Keeping KS1 children in over break times if work has not been completed.</li> </ul>	<p>Our whole school reward system is that all children over the year will be star of the week at least once. Every class has their own system of rewards- stickers, certificates, treats etc. which the children like and work hard to be the one to get the reward. Sometimes this is individually sometimes for groups work. A child's academic progress is about that particular child and how much progress has been made. As soon as you begin to compare with a child's peers then you can create children who worry that they are 'not as clever as their friends'. We believe that it is important to celebrate each child individually. As long as your child is working to the best of</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater emphasis on PE with more opportunities such as a daily mile, running clubs etc.</li> <li>• Don't offer music lessons which take a child out of other important lessons!</li> </ul>	<p>their ability then there is no problem. If your child is not trying their best then you would be informed. At parent's evening your child's next steps are given out and this is what they need for the next stage of their progress. If a child stays in at breaktime to finish work it is because their teacher believes that more work could have been completed in the lesson.</p> <p>All children have PE most weeks, we have a lot of PE based clubs and all classes take part in the Brunton mile. It is very difficult to put any more PE into an already very busy school week.</p> <p>Our KS2 children are offered music lessons as an enrichment of the music curriculum. We ensure that children do not miss the same part of a lesson each week.</p>
<p>Lunchtimes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mixed dinner arrangements should be available. Ie. Mon, Tues, Wed school meal and Thurs and Friday packed lunch it shouldn't be hard to manage if each child is the same every week.</li> <li>• New options introduced in the menu with more variation in the fillings</li> <li>• Not a healthy lunch, as cake, ice cream etc seems to be offered daily. Fruit should be the standard staple pudding. Pizza, burgers, fish and chips etc also appear too frequently on the menu.</li> </ul>	<p>School dinners always come up on the questionnaire. The menu is nutritionally balanced and children do not have cakes/ice cream every day. Fruit and yoghurt is always available every day.</p> <p>We have a different menu at the beginning of most school years which varies the meals for the children as they go through school.</p> <p>We cannot offer a mixed dinner arrangement as we have too many children and children often change their minds that would cause a lot more food to be wasted.</p>
<p>After school clubs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cheaper after school activities should be available,</li> <li>• The provision of clubs is woeful and random.</li> <li>• The communication about availability of clubs has been particularly bad this year and the range available after school is too limited.</li> <li>• The cost of Butterflies and Bugs has increased year on year above inflation and there is no alternative that stretches until after 5PM.</li> </ul>	<p>As a school our priority is to ensure a wide and varied education for all children, the clubs are enrichment for our children.</p> <p>We run 28 clubs using all the available space after school. This is a very large number of clubs compared to other schools. We vary the clubs termly to ensure we engage the interests of the majority of children. The costs of the club only cover the cost of the teacher/coach.</p> <p>Clubs are difficult to manage, however using Parentmail gives all parents the same opportunity to sign up for a club. Butterflies and Bugs is a separate company so school has no influence on their costs.</p>
<p>Safety/ Parking issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staggered starts would help with drop off and pick up.</li> <li>• School wants to encourage cycling/scooting but the pods/sheds are heaving. The school has grown but some of the amenities like this haven't!</li> <li>• The front yard is getting very busy on drop off.</li> <li>• Open the gate next to the bike shed so KS2 pupils and parents can enter straight into the back yard.</li> </ul>	<p>With such a large school there is bound to be congestion. Staggered starts would make the situation worse for families with more than one child in school.</p> <p>It is a bottle neck outside the reception classes so I would ask parents to move round into the yard to try and prevent this.</p> <p>We cannot open the gate behind the bike shed as it would mean children walking through the extremely congested staff car park.</p> <p>When the school had the last extension the cycle shed was enlarged to the maximum it could be and we added more scooter pods. We can't do anymore.</p>

<p>Homework</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feedback on homework would be appreciated</li> <li>• More focused homework.</li> <li>• Homework appears minimal.</li> <li>• holiday homework should not be set.</li> </ul>	<p>We have to balance the amount of homework given to the time it will take to complete. As a school we firmly believe that if a child works really hard throughout the school day then any homework should be a consolidation of work covered apart from when they are older when they are asked to research an area.</p>
<p>General school organisation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less dress up days/charity days which put pressure on parents to spend on costumes.</li> <li>• Ask for reasonable donations for no uniform, other schools ask for £1,</li> <li>• However I have been surprised at the occasions where money separates the children. I think it would be helpful for the school to look into poverty proofing. I feel it isn't a balanced field for children whose parents have financial difficulties</li> <li>• Would like nativities, mother's day harvest celebrations for all.</li> <li>• Seem to be periods with lots happening then nothing</li> </ul>	<p>As a school we are very aware that there are lots of pressure on parents. All charitable days will be £1 in future and of course this is a voluntary contribution. We don't expect parents to buy outfits for themed days and often the home made ones are so creative. We ask the pupil council which charities we should support over the year to prevent supporting too many.</p> <p>If any family has financial difficulties I am always available to talk over issues and may be able to signpost for you to get advice or help.</p> <p>School performances/assemblies: The school is too big and all the children cannot be accommodated in the large hall. We ensure all children as they move through school have the opportunity to take part in assemblies and performances. The introduction of the carols in the yard was added to our events this year.</p> <p>There are always times throughout the year when there will be lots happening in school - Christmas, end of the school year etc.</p>
<p>Middle school organisation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please can you confirm if the new great park academy school will be a feeder school for Brunton. Residents on gp have long been promised a new middle/high school however recent reports on social media suggest the new school will only serve Broadway East pupils meaning existing children on gp will have to travel to Gosforth. This issue is causing a great deal of concern for parents. It may also put off future parents living in great park sending their children to Brunton if Broadway is the feeder school.</li> <li>• It would be good to get updates on the next steps for middle school as we are unsure about progress of new middle school.</li> </ul>	<p>Broadway East First School is moving up to the Great Park and should open in September 2020 although this has not been definitely confirmed by the Local Authority. It will be a first school.</p> <p>The new middle/high school is also due to open in September 2020 but again this has not been confirmed.</p> <p>The feeder arrangements which are in place now will be discussed by Gosforth Schools' Trust and Gosforth Academy there may be some changes. All children in our first school are guaranteed a place in a middle school to continue their learning.</p>