



## Parent Questionnaire – March 2013

Many thanks for your responses!

41 questionnaires have been returned this time and the results are detailed below.

Box 1 shows the highest level of satisfaction and box 4 shows dissatisfaction.

Question/Area for self-evaluation	1 Highly Satisfied	2 Good	3 Satisfied	4 Needs Improvement
My child is happy at school.	26	14	1	-
The arrangements for settling in when my child started school were good.	27	12	2	-
The school encourages children to care for each other and develop a sense of responsibility.	28	11	2	-
I believe my child is making good progress.	22	16	3	-
School is a friendly and welcoming place.	28	12	1	-
Children's behaviour is good.	24	16	-	1
The Parent's Evening interviews/appointments keep us well informed about our child's progress.	20	18	3	-
I believe my child is taught well.	24	16	2	-
Staff are friendly, approachable and helpful with questions or problems.	27	12	1	2
Staff expect my child to work hard.	26	14	1	-
The school is well led and managed.	25	15	-	1
Staff explain how I can help my child at home and provide appropriate homework for their age.	16	16	7	2
Staff encourage my child to become mature, independent and self-confident.	23	15	3	-
The school takes good care of my child.	26	12	3	-
The school keeps me well informed (through the Shuttle, website, Information Station, letters, meetings, phone calls and texting/emailing service) Communication is good.	26	11	3	1
The prospectus available to parents (available from the Information Station and on the school website – <a href="http://www.thurlstoneprimary.co.uk">www.thurlstoneprimary.co.uk</a> ) is useful and informative.	21	13	6	1
The school provides good facilities both indoors and outdoors (allotment, Nature Garden, playground etc)	18	16	6	1

**What has been the best thing about this term?**

*The school trip to the Deep was fantastic and helped my child understand the course work they did in class afterwards. It brought it all to life in a way that books can't.*

*The Friendship concert was lovely. The children sang beautifully and were a credit to the school. It was good to see a previous pupil invited back to share her talents and inspire the next generation of music makers.*

*I would like to complement my child's class teacher on her fantastic art projects – she seems to have inspirational ways of teaching art techniques.*

*Young Voices was great.*

*The Deep trip, a good choice of afterschool trips, the Friendship Concert and fast information about the snow closures.*

*All the rugby!*

*Young Voices and Kingswood.*

*My child enjoys the theme work and is doing well in her reading and spellings.*

*The extra events like the Friendship Concert and afterschool clubs. The extra work put in by staff for these things is really appreciated.*

*We enjoyed the Friendship Concert very much. The performance by a past pupil was lovely and hopefully inspiring to the children.*

*The trip to the Deep and the Friendship Concert.*

*The best thing has been receiving the many 'well done' notes and awards from my child's class teacher. Makes us very proud!*

*The Amazon project and sponsorship ideas.*

*Monday's afterschool homework club.*

*The trip to the Deep was ambitious but loved by the children. I believe some excellent learning opportunities were fully exploited and I can confirm it enthused and inspired my child – she has made all sorts of Deep related models at home.*

*My child's teachers are fantastic and completely approachable. Thank you!*

*Starting school!*

*My child says school dinners have changed and she's enjoying eating her hot meal every day.*

*Making drinks in the maths lessons to support measuring. The Rainforest project – handling money, collecting leaves and making the book marks, going into the nature garden.*

*My child loved the trip to the Deep – was exhausted at the end! He also loved Handa's Surprise – especially showing us the actions!*

*My child's overall confidence and development – she loves coming to school.*

*We really enjoyed the Friendship Concert.*

*Homework with specific tasks is good such as Minute Maths. Education City is really good alternative to traditional learning. Creativity has been a key focus and my child has benefited from this – her confidence has grown significantly.*

*My child being happy and settled in their environment.*

*Excellent trip to the Deep- fabulous Christmas Concerts and the fortnightly homework for class 3 is definitely helpful!*

*The TAG rugby – my child has thoroughly enjoyed this - especially the tournament – excellent experiences for the children.*

*The Friendship concert! – Beautiful and moving – excellent standard of singing produced by the children.*

*Well done to the whole team – school just keeps on improving and the standard of teaching is exceptional!*

**Do you have any ideas for the future?**

- *I think school could make better use of Barnsley Music service and offer a more diverse range of music tuition.*
- *A Bike shed.*
- *Too much homework is given.*
- *Would it be possible to move milk time to morning break instead of just after lunch? My child would appreciate a mid-morning boost but is always full after lunch.*
- *Website needs updating.*
- *Seek business sponsorship. Combine afterschool clubs with other schools so more can attend. Reward higher achievers with cinema tickets, free Kingswood place etc. Have a weekly raffle, lottery to raise funds.*
- *Staff and school to support the Penistone Children's Choir – children felt let down by the lack of support at the recent Penistone Paramount concert.*
- *Better books in the library, improvements in the playground including a bike shed.*
- *Could we have a club allocated to reading?*
- *Improve the outdoor facilities – the playground gets flooded.*
- *Allotment afterschool club was offered but never happened.*
- *Communication via text message could sometimes be better if sent further in advance and followed up with second reminders.*
- *Maybe a trip to the theatre? Learning could explore moral values/something as appropriate.*
- *A good idea would be to let parents know what team children are in for when they win – especially the younger ones.*
- *It would be great if there were some additional sports for girls such as netball.*
- *The school needs to work on communication with parents and not expect the 'one size fits all' approach. Texts are overused, not kept for emergencies and assumptions made that they are acknowledged.*
- *Now that the weather picking up can Golden Time activities take place outside?*
- *Mentioning birthdays for the week in Friday's assembly?*
- *Lunchtime can still be a bit stressful with children falling out etc*
- *Maybe a better understanding on things we can do at home to support the terms projects etc*
- *Could any concerts maybe made into a CD to raise funds for school? Parents would love the chance to capture that special moment.*

**Many thanks, once again, for the time you've taken to complete the questionnaire and for your supportive and constructive comments. Some of your ideas have been passed on to individual class teacher who will give them careful consideration.**

**Obviously our aim is to please everyone and we go out of our way to do so – inevitably there will be times when this aim is not achieved despite our best efforts - as the saying goes “You can please some of the people all of the time, you can please all of the people some of the time, but you can't please all of the people all of the time”.**

**However your views are *extremely* important to us as they drive our school's improvement – we will be able to address some of your ideas straight away as we deem appropriate and do-able, but budget and time constraints will mean that some may have to be added to our 'to do' list!**

**Here are our thoughts in response to some of your ideas for the future.**

- We aim to provide a wide range of music tuition opportunities through Barnsley Music Service. We will notify parents when new instrument tuition becomes available to us.
- Homework is always a tricky one because many people have different views/opinion/expectations. Therefore we aim to provide purposeful, creative and enjoyable homework for our children. The amount of homework is appropriate for the age of pupils and tasks set provide much scope for individual children to express their learning and have fun doing so. In response to past parental concerns; we have altered our approach to homework so that, in some classes, children have a fortnight to complete their homework. This has been positively received. If you have concerns about homework, please talk to the class teacher or myself and we will do all we can to help you support and understand your child's home learning.
- The website is updated on a termly basis as appropriate and the Shuttle/new section is updated on a weekly basis. The class pages are under review.
- The school library is well resourced; however the school soon plans to purchase new books for the newly established mini-library.
- I am disappointed that I was unable to attend the choirs performance at the Paramount – unfortunately unforeseen circumstances prevented me from going along. We will be arranging another opportunity for the children to perform to the school and I will be there to see them perform at the Thurlstone Gala.
- We hope to make some provision for bikes and scooters soon – in the meantime pupils can now ride their bikes and scooters to school and leave them next to class 3 during the day.
- We will be notifying parents which team their child is in very soon – a good idea!
- The text service is not meant to be for emergencies only – it is a general information sharing system and is used in anyway the school sees fit. I am always happy to discuss any communication concerns, so feel free to pop in for a chat.
- Text messages are usually sent out in good time – however there are occasions when short notice is unavoidable. We do text reminders relating to events detailed in the Shuttle or specific letters but don't always have enough time, or see the need to send 2nd text reminders.
- An after- school allotment club has not been offered, however we do have plans to offer a Golden Time allotment club now that the weather is improving.
- Even though some Golden time activities have been outside during the winter months, more Gold Time activities will DEFINITELY be outside now the weather is picking up!
- Mentioning birthdays in Special Mentions assembly is another nice idea!
- I am currently looking into producing a CD of the Friendship Concert! Watch this space!
- The P.T.A is currently focusing their fundraising efforts on developing further our playground and outdoor environment. Your support of P.T.A fundraising events is always appreciated - however we ask that you understand that raising funds takes time and effort so developments and improvements will happen steadily throughout the year. The P.T.A has paid for the new playground benches – some more are being installed soon – a massive thanks for their efforts!

**Please get in touch if you would like to discuss any of the above further.**