



## Parent Questionnaire – Nov 2012

**Percentages have been rounded up or down as appropriate and if some don't add up to 100 it's because some were filled in as N/A**  
**31 forms returned**

| Question/Area for self-evaluation   | 1<br>Highly Satisfied | 2<br>Good | 3<br>Satisfied | 4<br>Needs Improvement |
|---|-----------------------|-----------|----------------|------------------------|
| My child likes school.  | 81%                   | 19%       | 0              | 0                      |
| The arrangements for settling in when my child started school were good.  | 68%                   | 26%       | 3%             | 0                      |
| The school encourages children to care for each other and develop a sense of responsibility.  | 74%                   | 26%       | 0              | 0                      |
| I believe my child is making good progress.   | 62%                   | 32%       | 6%             | 0                      |
| School is a friendly and welcoming place.   | 81%                   | 16%       | 3%             | 0                      |
| Children's behaviour is good.   | 61%                   | 39%       | 0              | 0                      |
| The Parent's Evening interviews/appointments keep us well informed about our child/ren.   | 71%                   | 26%       | 0              | 3%                     |
| I believe teachers give my child the help they need.  | 65%                   | 36%       | 0              | 0                      |
| Staff are approachable, accessible and helpful with questions or problems.  | 71%                   | 29%       | 0              | 0                      |
| Staff expect my child to work hard and they set high standards.   | 68%                   | 32%       | 0              | 0                      |
| The school is well run.   | 75%                   | 25%       | 0              | 0                      |
| Staff explain how I can help my child at home and provide appropriate homework.   | 65%                   | 29%       | 0              | 7%                     |
| Staff encourage my child to become mature, independent and self-confident.  | 71%                   | 29%       | 0              | 0                      |
| The school takes good care of my child.   | 78%                   | 22%       | 0              | 0                      |
| The school keeps me well informed (through the Shuttle, website, Information Station, letters, meetings, phone calls and texting/emailing service) Communication is good. | 71%                   | 26%       | 3%             | 0                      |
| The prospectus available to parents (available from the Information Station) is useful and informative.   | 55%                   | 36%       | 6%             | 0                      |
| The school provides good facilities both indoors and outdoors (allotment, Nature Garden etc)  | 68%                   | 23%       | 10%            | 0                      |

### What do you think we do well?

*You make school a good place to be. All the time my child has been at the school he has never said he doesn't want to come.*

*Organising lots of lovely activities for the children where often parents are involved. Providing a great school community feel. I think you also do a good job at getting to know the children as individuals.*

*The way the children look out for and support each other is fantastic and testimony to the way the staff encourage them to behave.*

*We are really pleased that there have been more afterschool activities this year. There is a caring atmosphere in the school and it is really nice the way different age groups mix and look after each other.*

*You listen to any concerns or queries. You support my child's individual needs. You keep me up to date with what's happening in my son's school life. Thanks!*

*Settling in new children.*

*Excellent quality teaching.*

*The buddy system.*

*Texting system*

*Approachable teachers.*

*You look after our children and give them a rounded education.*

*School is very welcoming with a lovely relaxed atmosphere.*

*I like that the children have a reading book every week and spellings.*

*The school is a very friendly place which has made it very easy for my child to settle in.*

*You communicate with children in a positive manner that children respond well to, even in tricky situations. Respond well to concerns and support families as well as the children attending. The head and class teacher have a very positive influence on the behaviour of my child at home.*

*I like the attitude towards behaviour and caring for other children, and the fact that my child knows everyone in school. I enjoyed parents evening this term – much more of a discussion about my child in general rather than rushing through a report.*

*Education City is the best idea regarding homework.*

*As I can't be as involved as I would like I only get a sense of things but I feel very confident in the head and in the way the school is run. I feel lessons are up-beat, interesting and that there must be much fun to be had. My child is happy and happy learning!*

*Engage with the child on an individual needs basis – very approachable staff.*

*Create a strong sense of community amongst pupils.*

*School is very good at making children and parents feel very welcome. In our short time at Thurlstone we have been pleased with the school and how well our child has settled.*

*The school knows my child as an individual providing well-tailored education. Keeps my child safe and attention to hygiene appears very good – helping my child to keep healthy.*

*Special Mentions assemblies are fab!*

**Do you have any ideas for the future? (here is a summary of your views)**

*Some reading mornings – an opportunity to go into the classroom. Could you keep us updated with sessions informing us of learning tactics e.g. terms used in maths, sounds in English and what they are learning regarding computer skills?*

*The transition from class 1 to class 2 could have been made a lot smoother if the information we were given at the end of week 1 had been given out at the end of the previous term. The website is out of date – particularly the photos from each class.*

*We would be grateful if it was possible to let us know what we could do to help our child with more frequently than waiting for parents evening to come round.*

*Develop outdoors further?*

*A school disco to raise PTA funds.*

*Evening appointments for parents evening again.*

*Drum kit so my child can have more effective drum lessons.*

*Don't close the school for elections as it cost me in childcare.*

*After school catch up classes would be most welcome.*

*I would prefer the homework to be more precise. It always seems so open ended and takes a long time to do. Homework needs looking at – too much to do and becomes parents homework not child's.*

*Could access to class 1 be improved in any way to facilitate prams at all?*

*Just keep doing what you are doing. In the 8 years I have been involved with Thurlstone it has been transformed into an excellent school looking at the whole development of children in school and the wider community. Thank you so much.*

*My child really enjoyed the TAG rugby competition against Millhouse – it would be nice to have more competitive sport.*

*Homework needs looking at. Too much given to my child – becomes parents homework rather than the child's.*

*It would have been helpful to know when assessment week was as my child didn't understand the change in test method and I could have helped her at home.*

*Consider building work to house the growing population of Thurlstone. Space is clearly very tight at the moment with some children having somewhat problematic access to bathrooms.*

**Thank you so much for your many positive and supportive comments! Its' lovely to hear that you appreciate all we do!**

**Thank you also for your ideas for the future.**

**Here are our thoughts in response.**

I have shared your ideas/views with class teachers who I'm sure will reflect on your comments and make changes if they are able. We have on-going plans to further develop our outdoor areas: we have commissioned some lovely wooden seating for the playground which will be paid for by the P.T.A. Developments beyond this are planned for but unfortunately limited funds means that developments have to be progressive.

We aim to provide convenient parents evening appointments for all our parents but the work-life balance of our teaching staff must also be considered. Where parents have not been able to attend at their allocated time alternative arrangements have been made.

We will pass on concerns regarding drum kit provision to Barnsley Music Service who provide equipment and lessons.

Booster Club is made available to year 6 pupils in the spring term (this is kindly provided by Mrs Kenyon at her discretion) however additional lessons cannot be offered by the school as this is not in a teacher's contract or their terms and conditions of pay. If you would like your child to receive additional tuition, private tutors can be sourced but must be paid for by parents.

We understand access into class 1 is difficult for parents with push chairs and prams; however we're struggling to come up with a solution to this problem as there is no other access point other than up the drive and this is not a safe option as staff have use of the driveway right up to 9am. Perhaps babies could be carried in a sling instead?

We try to make homework a creative, fun and useful experience for children, teachers and parents but if you have concerns regarding homework I am sure class teachers will be happy to go through their expectations with you. However we will discuss homework and any possible changes we can make.

We have many inter-school competitive sporting events taking place on a weekly basis and plan to challenge Millhouse (and win!) before too long. Mr Mynett kindly gives up his free time to attend these events for the benefit of our pupils and the school so we are very grateful to him.

PTA ideas will be passed on to them.

**PLEASE FEEL FREE TO GET IN TOUCH IF YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER QUERIES AND/OR CONCERNS**