

Questionnaire for Parents and Carers - 2009

175 questionnaires were returned - thank you. Below are the percentages results for each area. N.B most of the "Not Sure" came from nursery/reception parents who did not feel they could comment on some sections just yet.

Q		Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not Sure
1	Does your child like being at this school?	52%	46%	2%		
2	Does your child find lessons interesting?	36%	63.5%	0.5%		
3	Does your child feel safe from bullying and from people calling him/her names?	Yes 91%	No 7%			Not sure 2%
4	If your child has a problem and need to talk to someone, do you feel that there is an adult they can go to?	Yes 95%	No 4%			Not Sure 1%
5	The school lunches are healthy and well balanced	35%	57%	3%	2%	3%
6	The school provides good opportunities for physical exercise	26%	64%	9%	1%	
7	The school helps the children lead a healthy lifestyle	25%	73%	2%		
8	Do you feel the school gives you a clear understanding of what is being taught?	23%	70%	6%	1%	
9	Do you feel the school enables your child to achieve a good standard of work?	43%	56%	1%		
10	If your child is stuck in class, do you think they feel comfortable asking for help?	25%	65%	7.5%	0.5%	2%
11	How satisfied are you with the work your child is expected to do at home?	23%	65%	8%		4%
12	Do you feel the school keeps you well informed about your child's progress?	19%	76%	5%		
13	Do you find it easy to approach the school with questions or problems to do with your child?	29%	65%	6%		
14	How useful do you find the weekly newsletter?	63%	37%			
		End of Summer Term	Beg of Sept	Don't Mind		
15	When would you like the induction meetings?	60%	13%	27%		

Do you have further comments about attitudes to school? (Q1-4)

- Our child feels relaxed and safe in her class
- Confidence has increased
- Happy and making good progress
- Sometimes dinner ladies don't listen
- She loves all aspects of learning
- Loves the visits, like Timezone etc..
- Worried about playtimes
- Teachers are very approachable and reassuring
- Settled in very quickly and he says he loves it!
- Our son is very quiet so he wouldn't approach an adult at school if something was wrong, however, this is not a reflection on the school.
- Enjoys school has a positive attitude towards her lessons.

Do you have further comments about Healthy Schools? (Q5-7)

- My child has a good understanding of healthy eating and exercise
- I love how school makes the children aware of how important it is to eat well and to exercise.
- Not a full choice available for hot dinners
- Not always hot dinners available
- More after school clubs
- Multi skills club for Year 1 like reception has.
- PE and after school clubs limited
- Not full menu available if you are in last
- Loves to stay for hot lunches and often tries things she won't normally try
- School dinners are excellent, but the portions could be bigger!
- Squash should be allowed in water bottles
- Opportunities have increased 100% but could compete in more sporting events
- Clubs for physical activity other than football
- After school club in reception was oversubscribed.
- My daughter loves her school dinners!

Do you have further comments on the work your child does at school or at home? (Q8-11)

- The pieces of homework she has brought home have been interesting because it is not every week, therefore she is more motivated to do it.
- More than happy to support at home.
- Maths support
- Very little homework given
- More maths homework
- I am unable to help at home as I am unsure of how maths is being taught at school
- My daughter has enough homework
- Homework not given on a regular basis
- Find it hard to fit in homework as a single working parent, some weeks its gets missed.

- Glad my son only gets reading homework as I feel it is important when he comes home for him to play and to spend time with the family.
- Too much homework
- Very happy with the amount of homework set
- If extra work needs to be done to help the child keep up – send it home
- More information on what they are doing in class
- Can we have a topic chart each half term so we can support at home
- Information on what the children are learning so we can talk about it at home
- Very happy with the amount of work set
- Engrossed in lessons comes home every day having learnt something new!

Comments on general communication (Q16-19)

- Website needs to be more up to date
- Newsletters are very helpful
- We look forward to the newsletter every week!
- Communication is a lot better this year
- Website is great! –If I don't get a newsletter I just get it up on the website!
- Teachers very friendly and willing to help no matter what you ask
- Termly profile is an excellent way for us to see the progress made
- I know I can ask the school if I have any issues
- Mrs. Cope is an excellent receptionist!
- Website needs to be updated more – photos quite old
- Newsletter is very good, covers anything we need to know
- The newsletter is fantastic without it we wouldn't know what was going on!

Do you have any comments with regard to security?

- Impressed by recent security measures
- Satisfied that my child is safe at school
- Security has improved
- Much improved but sometimes the gate by the school office is open during the day
- Very happy with security of the school
- Gate at side of school is open before 3.30pm bell
- The security arrangements are good
- The recent security has really worked wonders with school security. There was none before and this was always a problem to me. I'm 100% happy now.
- A lot better since changes have been made.
- Maybe too much security!
- I feel my children are safe at Holly Grove.

What further improvements would you like to see?

- More space – magic wand!
- Better storage in classrooms
- Mobiles replaced with an extension
- SPACE
- More to do on the junior playground
- Better maintenance of the grounds – leaves

- Lockers for Year 6

Any other general comments

- Good communication and advance notice
- I'm a very happy and impressed parent!
- Trip subscriptions should be compulsory and not voluntary
- Very proud to have her as a Holly Grove pupil
- Really happy attending
- Parents evening – prefer time slots instead of a drop in
- Lovely trips!
- Many improvements and changes have occurred in the past year and I feel they have improved the school!
- I also like the feedback from the teachers as it allows me to get involved and assist my child in learning
- School have been fantastic with my daughter as she has had problems due to family issues
- Our child loves being at Holly Grove and enjoys all aspects of school
- Wider variety of clubs for younger children
- Monthly/half termly topic guides so we know what the children are doing at school
- Parent workshops to encourage a greater understanding of numeracy teaching
- Holly Grove is a very good school with high standards
- I am more than happy with Holly Grove
- The School has a nice, friendly atmosphere and our daughter enjoys going there.
- Profile books are great!
- More swimming lessons for the younger children
- Would like to see subject teachers on parents night
- Have had problems with head lice
- More notice of things like cross county events
- More help with transition between year 2 and year 3.
- We are very happy with Holly Grove , so far both our children have received excellent teaching and they both enjoy coming to school
- I feel the children are recognised and rewarded well.
- Teachers are very positive and constructive with their comments
- I have more confidence in the new and improved systems throughout the school
- Mrs. O'Hare and the teachers have been very supportive
- We are impressed with Holly Grove
- Let's have parent's lunches! Not fair that only grandparents get to come for lunch!!
- Termly profile books are a great way for us to see progress being made
- Very pleased with the standards of education!

Report on the results of the Parent/Carer Questionnaire – Holly Grove February 2010

First of all thank you for taking the time and trouble to complete the questionnaire. We had 175 replies with lots of these having additional comments added.

The overwhelming response as you can see is a very encouraging and positive one, which we are obviously delighted about. However, the point of these fact finding exercises are to see how we can make our school community even better and in tune with the needs of our children, parents and local community. If you have any further comments following this report, please feel free to let us know via a letter, an email or call into the school office.

Issues raised

After looking at the percentage responses and taking into account the additional comments, the following areas are something we need to look at further:

Response

- The school provides an indoor and an outdoor PE lesson for all children. In reception outdoor PE starts in the Spring term.
- We are currently looking at getting funding to extend the range of extra curricular sport clubs we run by bidding for grants for employ sports coaches. We have been really lucky in securing funding so that we will be able to offer extra curricular sports EVERY EVENING ranging from 1-½ hours to 3 hours tuition after school during the summer term. These sports will include: football, multi-sports, gymnastics, street dance, cheerleading, hockey, rugby, golf, netball and the reception multi-skills club. These clubs will be spread out through the age ranges to help more children have opportunities for extra-curricular sport.
- This will also help us in our goal of extending sports provision from the statutory 2 hours to the goal of the School Sports Partnerships of 5 hours.
- We have outside sports coaches that come into school to extend the knowledge base of skills not only for our children but also for our staff.
- We have had a Rugby coach, a Football coach so far this year and we are hoping to get a Hockey coach and a Gymnastics coach in to work with children during their sports lessons.
- We are part of the Burntwood Sports Partnership, which gives us access to greater PE resources and experiences. We regularly take part in workshops and tournaments with other schools in Burntwood via the Sport Partnership, which allows children from all year groups to be involved. EG Year 1 multi-skills workshop.

- We enter lots of sports competitions and have been very pleased to state we have won quite a lot of them!
- This year we entered the Tag Rugby Tournament for the first time.
- Last year we won the Rounders Tournament and were to represent Burntwood at the Staffordshire Final unfortunately it was cancelled to bad weather! We are the current champions of the Inter-Schools Sport tournament and we have trophies in Cross County, football and netball! We have a football team, a netball team, a cross county team, an athletics team and a rounders team.
- We have also received the Achievement Mark in PE this year in recognition of the sport we do in school.
- We are always looking at ways of extending the range of activities and last year had a week of Indian Dancing where every child in the school had a dance lesson, including the nursery children.
- Year 5 and year 6 go swimming every week. They have 3 half terms each year group for two years. We also take Year 1 children each week (all go during the year) this is to encourage them to try out swimming and to motivate them by getting their “first swimming badge/certificate”.
- We even had a break dancing lesson in Year 1 last year! And we are having a street dancer coming in to work with children during lesson time – through our links with CTTC.
- The first term we couldn’t really run clubs as we had heating engineers working in the school and under Health and safety we couldn’t have the children in. These are some of the clubs we have been running since October half term.
- Cooking Club for Year 6, Recorder Club, Production Club, Reception Sport Club, Multi-Skills Sports Club Yr1 –Yr6, Drama Club Yr 2, Aston Villa Football Club – KS2 next term KS1, Football club – Monday lunchtimes, Netball Club, German Club, Art club Yr 2, Cheerleading Club, Gardening Club to name just a few.

1. In response to the parent responses on the problem of the children not getting the dinner they wanted due to problems of when they come into the hall. Mrs. Heap the school cook and myself meet with county catering to discuss possible solutions to the problems raised. We have now introduced a pre-ordering system for children so that they will hopefully always get the lunch they want. We are the first school in Burntwood to pilot this system and hope with your help we will be successful! We have also put in the facility for you to pay weekly or by cheque.
2. In response to the issues of not knowing what your child is doing each half term. We will put a topic guide on the website for each half term so that you will be kept informed. We will also try to put some more information on to the weekly newsletter to help you to support your children at home. In regards to progress we do send out the Profile books before Parents Evenings so that you have an idea of the standard of their work, the progress made since you last saw their profile book, the assessments that have taken place. You also get the targets that the teacher has sent for literacy and Numeracy. You also get a

quite detailed report at the end of the school year, with a further opportunity to see the teachers if you wish to discuss the report. We will arrange a Numeracy workshop for parents during this term so that we can show you the different ways we teach maths now. We will also produce some leaflets to help you at home.

3. Homework – we have had a mixed response to the idea of the amount of homework. The majority of parents are happy with the amount of homework given, however some parents who like more to be given. We will be reviewing the homework policy and consulting further with staff, parents and pupils in regard to this. We are putting Literacy and Numeracy zones on the school website so that your child has websites to go to that are child friendly and educational. These include websites to help with times tables, spelling, grammar, etc... This could be a compromise for those parents and children who want to do more at home. We will keep you informed.
4. Approaching school – We are also always willing to see parents to discuss any concerns or problems in regards to your child and their education. Sometimes teachers are not available first thing in the morning as we have a lot of staff on gate duty, so please call into the school office or call up and we can arrange a convenient time for you to meet. Please do come and see your child’s class teacher first as they will have more knowledge about the problem and are the first point of contact. Please do not leave issues build up, we can talk them through and hopefully find solutions.
5. Security – We have tried to increase the security of the school premises so that the children are safe and that the school site is also secure. We have tried not to go “over the top” with the fencing, so that the school still looks like a school! The side gate by the school office is now being locked during the day, we had to wait until a new window had been put in the school office as the old one didn’t open outwards. The new one does so children can pass through messages to the office without going out of the secure area. The gates are opened in the morning at 8.45am when the staff are on duty to supervise the children and will be opened at 3.20ish when Mrs. Deakin goes up to Ironstone Road to start her lollypop duties.
6. Website- We will try harder to keep the website more up to date, please bear with us as we put into place a procedure for staff to make this manageable. If you have any suggestions of things you would like to see on the website please let us know.
7. Parents night – we will look at parents night take into account what has been said about the first night not being a drop in and will come back to you about this.
8. In regards to head lice unfortunately we no longer have the system of the “Nit Nurse”! We do encourage parents very regularly to check their children’s hair and have even in the past given out free nit combs. This is a problem most

schools have and we need to all try to check every week so that we can keep the problem at bay.

9. Notice of events- we did take on board what parents asked for last year, which was the inset days before we broke up for the summer holidays. We have tried to give advanced notice of things, we do send out the major dates on our dates letter the first week in September. We will make sure this is put on the school website as well. We do put up and coming things on the school newsletter too! In regard to some sports events we aren't always given a lot of notice ourselves and we do try to get letters out as soon as we can. As a lot of sports events are not organised by ourselves we are reliant on others. It is unfortunate when things are cancelled but we cannot control the weather.

10. Improvements to the school – We would love more space, but unfortunately we have a small building and a very popular school! We have been trying to make improvements to the building and the premises this year by improving storage, flooring, heating, windows, doors, furniture and general decoration. We spent a lot of money on the outdoor canopy for the Foundation stage and resurfacing the infant playground. Obviously, we can only do what our budget allows but we are trying to create the best environment we can at Holly Grove.