

Questionnaire for Parents and Carers - 2010

163 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?	48%	52%			
2	Does your child find lessons interesting?	37%	62.5%	0.5%		
3	Does your child feel safe from bullying and from people calling him/her names?	Yes 85%	No 13%			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 97%	No 3%			
5	The school lunches are healthy and well balanced	34%	59%	3%		4%
6	The school provides good opportunities for physical exercise	29%	66%	2%	1%	2%
7	The school helps the children lead a healthy lifestyle	29%	70.5%	0.5%		
8	Do you feel the school gives you a clear understanding of what is being taught?	24%	64%	11%		1%
9	Do you feel the school enables your child to achieve a good standard of work?	39%	60%	1%		
10	Please rate how you feel about your children going on trips/having visitors in to enhance their learning?	48%	47%			5%
11	In addition to work in maths and English we try and provide a broad-based creative curriculum. Do you think we are succeeding?	34%	62%			4%
12	Are you pleased with the security arrangements of the school?	45%	52%			3%
13	How useful do you find the termly pupil profile folders?	53%	40%	1%		6%
14	Do you find it easy to approach the school with questions or problems to do with your child?	40%	55%	5%		
15	How useful do you find the weekly newsletter?	72%	28%			

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

- Staff very supportive with problems about settling in
- Nursery staff very supportive as our child had developmental problems
- All staff calm and approachable
- Our child settled in much better than expected – due to the staff!
- Our son enjoys being part of the school and feels safe here.
- Her teachers are good pro-social role models
- Enjoys school!
- Raves about maths!
- Generally very happy, any incidents have always been dealt with well
- Always tells me of her new experiences.
- She is happy and comfortable here.
- Holly Grove is a perfect place to thrive
- Confidence continues to increase
- Enjoys every aspect of school
- Feels she isn't taken seriously by staff
- How fantastic that a child in Year 4 still continues to enjoy coming to school
- Very reassuring that daughter felt she could go to any teacher or even the head with a problem
- Often says people call her names
- Social skills need to be built up
- He feels he can talk to his teachers
- Feels safe at school

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

- Impressed with the healthy snacks and milk
- Lots of opportunities for outside play
- School is very healthy with snacks and drinks provided, but very strict with fruit juices as they are just as healthy
- My son has a packed lunch and enjoys sitting with his teacher, he looks forward to it
- Loves his hot dinners
- Good to know having a well balanced meal at a good price
- Good variety of choices
- Children not actively encouraged to have an option from each food group
- Portion sizes small
- Why can't children dispose of the rubbish out of their lunchboxes?
- I think the schools approach to healthy eating and physical activity is fantastic!
- Roast dinners – 2 or 3 times a week please!
- Card system for dinners encourages her to have a hot dinner and its something she likes!
- Gym club please!
- A Trim trail would be an asset to the school.
- Fruit for juniors
- PE should not be cancelled when hall is needed for other things.
- Loved gardening club

- Clubs promote exercise
- Clubs improved with a greater variety of choice
- Lunches excellent
- Much better physical exercise than they did have 3 years ago

Do you have further comments on the work your child does at school? (Q9-13)

- The nursery and Holly Tots newsletter very good
- Work varied and interesting
- Excellent variety of activities
- My son has so much opportunity to enhance his learning experience
- Happy with learning
- Would like a bit more guidance with reading
- Trips can be a bit expensive
- More communication on what we can do to support at home
- Loves all her lessons
- Children enjoy all trips and visits and adults
- Reading books seem a bit easy
- Wish my son would change books more often but this is down to him and not his teachers
- More warning about trips at the beginning of the year
- More rewards for achieving levels in reading
- She becomes fully immersed in all the topics and wants to find out more at home
- School trips complement their learning
- An English parents inset
- Trips have benefited my child
- Daughter always says what she has been doing and what she is looking forward too.
- My daughter loves coming to school and this is as much to do with fantastic teachers who make learning interesting
- Very interesting subjects covered
- Parental contribution for trips too much
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Comments on security (Q14)

- Much more secure around reception external doors
- School takes an active role in ensuring the safety of children
- Parents should not distract teachers who are on the gates but stick to the system of going into office and making an appointment
- Holes in hedge
- Parking outside school is an issue
- I am satisfied my child is safe at school
- Its really good having teachers on the gates in the morning
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Comments on improvements (Q15A)

- School looks inviting
- Mr Bennett's classroom is so much bigger!

- School environment is much better
- Successful improvements
- Improvements have provided better environments for learning
- A place to be proud of!
- School is looking great
- The appearance of the school environment greatly improved
- Like the new signs
- Reception area much better now its bigger
- All improvements have been good
- The school is a different place over the last couple of years – vastly improved

Comments improvements for the future (Q15B)

- Parking by the school gates
- Lengthen the size of the outside classroom
- Yellow lines outside the school
- I would like to see an adventure playground for the children
- Better maintenance of the leaves outside the school
- Bigger classrooms
- Outdoor wet area for juniors
- Gates opened earlier in wet weather
- More clubs to promote social skills
- Separate break times for yr4/3 and yr5/6
- More lockers for the juniors
- Text service for the parents
- More staff

Comments on reporting system (Q16)

- Good to have description of the development areas
- Need to be more individual
- Need to be more personal to the child
- Happy with reports
- More written comments on how to improve
- Parental feedback is appropriate and sufficient
- Prefer the comments as stats can be misleading
- I like effort and achievement grades
- A few more general comments
- Comments to PC need to be more to the point
- Feedback useful
- Can be too wordy and impersonal
- Informative
- A bit impersonal
- I find the reports useful
-

Comments on general communication (Q17)

- Good communication from the teachers
- Trips need to be informed at the beginning of the year
- Communications have improved

- Fantastic newsletter
- Morning appointments for working parents
- Electronic – instead of paper
- Stars of the week seem to be the same people
- Happy with letters
- Everyone approachable
- Email system
- Happy with communication
- Much better communication this year
- Very good communication from the teachers
- Need more notice about events
- Newsletter great for helping parents/carers know what is going on in school
- Everyone very approachable
- Excellent newsletters
- Communication much improved

Any other general comments

- Story sacks and book bags are brilliant
- Text message service for parents
- Like having the questionnaire
- Holly Grove is an excellent school
- Don't like profile books
- Trips need to be notified at the beginning of year to help parents budget
- All staff approachable and happy to listen and help
- Wonderful school with a happy atmosphere
- Holly Grove is a good school
- Staff are motivated and committed
- Glad my daughter attends
- School has a good reputation locally
- Always a member of staff available before or after school to talk to if needed
- All staff approachable and know the children very well
- More guidance on how to help at home
- Profile books good
- School photos didn't like the new ones
- School events need more details can be a little last minute
- IEPS kept up to date this year with meetings
- Website not updated enough
- Loved coming into school on World book day and reading to the children
- Great arrangements for children moving into mixed year groups, it has had a positive effect on my daughters academic success, confidence and self esteem
- Positive attitudes of staff are conveyed to children
- Pleased with support our son has been given
- Maybe a booklet showing ideas to help at home
- Many changes have happened which have improved the school greatly
- Large classes in small spaces
- More privacy at parents evenings

- Very happy with school – child is always happy to come to school
- Menus on the website in case child forgets to bring them home
- Dedicated staff
- More opportunities for larger groups of children to learn instruments
- Fantastic teaching staff who are not just concerned with teaching the subjects but also raising confidence and self esteem of the pupils
- Supervision around the lockers so children don't go into other children's lockers

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 163 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 were able to get extra funding to support after school sports clubs in the summer term last year, from bidding for funding from the Sports Council, Burntwood Partnership and Lichfield District Council. This enabled us to have a range of sports available to the whole school for a nominal fee of £1. Obviously due to the economic situation at the moment all these funding threads have been cut. We are hoping to be able to get more coaches in but the costs will be higher. More information will come out to you as soon as we have it.
- We have been looking for a gymnastic coach for an after school club but so far have not had any joy! We will continue to look and hopefully find someone.
- We are going to join the Staffordshire Bullying Pledge. The Pledge Scheme aims to support Staffordshire schools in their work to build positive relationships and minimise and deal with bullying. The scheme provides a framework and tools for action. A supporter guides schools through the accreditation process from the Education Psychology Service. When joining schools are asked to make the following Pledge: "We are working with staff, pupils and parents to create a school community where bullying is not

tolerated". We hope this will help to reduce any issues that children or parents may feel we have had in the past.

1. Last year due to parents stating their children did not get the meal they wanted we introduced the booking system for the school meals. This meant no matter when your child was due in the dinner hall they would get the meal they had ordered. This has been very successful. However, some children have been disappointed as they have not been pre-ordering. Popular meals need to be pre-ordered otherwise we cannot guarantee that children will get this choice.
2. In terms of the menus and the comment about having more roast dinners, we are not allowed to do that as we have to follow the Staffordshire County Catering Menus. In terms of encouraging the children to have all the food groups, we do encourage them and ask them to try things. Obviously, we can't make them but we always ask them to have some vegetables, salad or fruit.
3. Lunchboxes – the main reason why we ask the children to take their rubbish home, firstly so that parents are aware of what their child is eating at school and what they aren't eating. We have previously had children not eating their packed lunches and throwing it away in the bins. Then parents are unaware that their child is not eating as the lunchboxes are coming home empty.
4. We did arrange a Numeracy workshop for parents during this term so that we can show you the different ways we teach maths now for parents of children in Yr1, Yr2 and Yr3. We had over 48 parents attend and the over all response was very positive. We are hoping to put on another workshop for the older children later this term.
5. 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. Obviously we do understand that it can be difficult for working parents to see teachers after school so if you want to see a teacher before school contact the office and we can try and arrange this for you.
6. Security – We have listened to your comments about the gates and have made every effort to make sure gates are opened on time. The side gate by the main office is locked during the day so that the hall doors can be opened when it is hot and so that the children are in a safe environment. We did not want to have to go to the extent of having 6ft fencing around the car park area as this we felt would be more like a prison than a school. We have taken steps to secure the boundary hedge on Ironstone Road. It is a hawthorn hedge and during the winter the gaps in the hedge are noticeable. We have taken steps to have a mesh fence along the hedge line so that when it grows it will grow into it.

7. 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.
8. Notice of events- we did take on board what parents asked for last year, which were 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 few weeks 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.
9. We will try to let you know in September of the forth coming trips and the approximate costs, obviously these can change mostly due to transport costs which have increased considerably in the past year. We were glad to see that you all felt trips and visitors were important to the overall educational experience for your children. We do understand that trips can be expensive and do look to reduce costs were we can, but transport costs have really increased which have a big knock on effect, that is why we do arrange for visitors like Time Team to come into school so that we aren't paying transport costs.
10. Improvements to the school – Over this past year we have had a lot of work done within the school. We had a new hall floor – which is cleaner, warmer for the children and hopefully will last us for a long, long time! We also have had new carpets throughout the whole of the school, which have improved the overall environment of the school. We have also put barrier-matting carpet in all the cloakrooms to prevent muddy wet feet being brought through the whole school. We have had new storage cupboard units in nursery, reception class, throughout year 1 and year 2, and a new sink area in the library. We have also had a new heating system, which allows the school to now control the temperature of the school! We also have had the old storage heaters taken out and have shelved the cupboards so we are able to use the cupboards for more storage. We have also had lockers in the Yr4/3 cloakroom. We have also extended Mr. Bennett's classroom by taking out the wall and making the quiet room part of his room. We have also had a new projector and screen in the hall for the children to use during assemblies and productions. The area outside the main school office has been extended and we have had new front doors and a window there too. We have carpeted this area and tried to extend the waiting area. We have had a new staff room with kitchen built and a new nursery kitchen. We have had new signage outside the main front office and on the doors around school. We have had the school motto "Reach for the Stars" signs in every classroom, as well as in the hall and in the entrance. We have also had a new changing area put into nursery with a changing bed. We have had bushes cut down in the quiet area (side of infant playground) and had the area wood chipped so the children can use the space as a quiet space. We have had a new shed for reception and a new outside storage area for the outside

reception playground. We have planted a “small wooded” area in the corner of the field by Ironside Road and fenced the area so we can have our own little wood in years to come!

11. Parking – we have contacted the community police about the parking issues around the school area and they have said they will try to patrol more. We have also put in a request for more school signage to alert people to the fact that our school exists to help with reducing cars speeds along Holly Grove Lane.
12. Report system – Thank you for your comments on our report system. We have taken your comments about the reports not really being personal to your child and have decided to change our reports this year. We will ask for your feedback in the New Year to see if you prefer the new reports.
13. The text service for parents is a great idea, however it does have costs for the school. At the moment we do not feel we are able to offer this service due to the rising costs of other services and trying to keep the school in the black, which as you can appreciate is difficult within the current economic climate. We will keep it in mind for the future.
14. Instruments – we do pay into the Staffordshire music service and we do subsidise the lessons for children. The problem with the numbers of children able to do the lessons depends on the spaces the music teachers have in class. One problem we do have is due to the limited spaces it makes it very frustrating when a child drops out of the music lesson part way through the year, especially when there have been loads of children wanting to have a go and not getting the opportunity. As the school still has to fund those places even when a child has dropped out we are asking for parents to pay upfront for the lessons in September from now on.
15. We are looking at trying to reduce the amount of paper that goes out to parents. We would like to eventually go “paperless”. We will be looking at ways during this year, with the introduction of our Internet based Learning platform. We will have more information on this to give you throughout the year.